

Chess Notes Openings

Nimzowitsch Defense



100 Annotated Games ●



□ **Giri, Anish** **C65**
■ **Firouzja, Alireza** **2745**
2737
 Bullet Chess Losers blitz (2.2) 11.06.24
[Kitty Kat]

C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5

I guess analysing this game is pretty much obligatory for this month's edition, although it is not exactly critical to the theory. However, this game is perhaps one of most historic since the turn of the century, as its conclusion may go down as the official beginning of the Reign of Magnus. Szabo, Kr: 'Since Carlsen had won the previous game too, he had 3 points advantage and actually this was the last game of their match.' **1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Ne7 5.0-0 c6 6.Bc4**

[6.Ba4 Ng6 7.Re1 Be7 (7...Bb4 8.c3 Ba5 9.d4 d6 10.Bc2 0-0 11.Nbd2 Re8 12.a4 Bc7 13.Nf1 d5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Nxe4 16.f3 Nc5 17.Be3 Ne6 18.f4 g6 19.Ng3 Ng7 20.Qf3 Bd7 21.c4 Be6 22.cxd5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (56) Moussard, J (2654)-So, W (2769) FIDE World Cup 2023 (3.4)) 8.d4 d6 9.c3 0-0 10.Nbd2 h6 11.Nf1 Re8 12.Ng3 a5 13.Bc2 Qc7 14.a4 Bd7 15.h3 b5 16.Be3 Rab8 17.Qd2 b4 18.Bd3 bxc3 19.bxc3 Be6 20.Qc2 Rb7 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (77) Carlsen, M (2870)-Anand, V (2775) WCh 2013 Chennai IND (10)]

6...Ng6 7.Re1N Black should prevent d4.

[7.d4 Nxe4 8.dxe5 Be7 9.Re1 d5 10.exd6 Nxd6 11.Bb3 0-0 12.Nc3 Bf6 13.Be3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Bg4 15.Bc5 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 b6 17.Qxc6 bxc5 18.Rad1 Rc8 19.Qxd6 Qa5

20.Qd5 Qxc3 21.Re3 Qf6 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (82) Atakisi, U (2437)-Georgiev, K (2666) 2005]

[7.Nc3 Be7 8.Ne2 0-0 9.Ng3 d5 10.exd5 cxd5 11.Bb3 Bg4 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Qd7 14.Bg5 Rad8 15.Rfe1 h6 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nf5 Nf4 18.Qg4 Kh7 19.Ne3 g6 20.Qxd7 Rxd7 21.Ng4 Bg7 1-0 (51) Noa, J-Mortimer, J London IT 1883 (16.1)]

7...Be7 8.d4 d6 9.c3 0-0 10.Bb3 exd4 11.cxd4 d5 12.e5 Ne4 13.Nc3 Bb4 0.70/22

[13...Bf5= 0.26/21]

14.Bd2 -0.50/19

[Better is 14.Rxe4± 0.70/22 dxe4 15.Ng5 (15.Nxe4 Be7=)]

14...Nxd2 15.Qxd2 f6 16.a3 -0.74/24

[16.exf6 -0.31/23 should be considered. Bxc3 17.bxc3 (17.Qxc3 Qxf6 18.Qe3 a5=)]

16...Ba5 17.Bc2 fxe5 18.Bxg6 -1.17/24

[18.Nxe5 -0.70/23 Nxe5 19.Rxe5]

18...exd4!

[Of course not 18...hxg6?! 19.Nxe5 Bf5 20.Rac1=]

19.Bxh7+ Kxh7 20.Nxd4 Qf6 21.Re3 Bd7 22.b4 Bb6 23.Rd1? -3.48/21

[23.Rd3 -1.45/19 is the only way for White.]

(Diagram)

23...Rae8 -1.48/20

[23...Bxd4!-+ -3.48/21 24.Qd3+ Kg8]

24.Rxe8 Rxe8

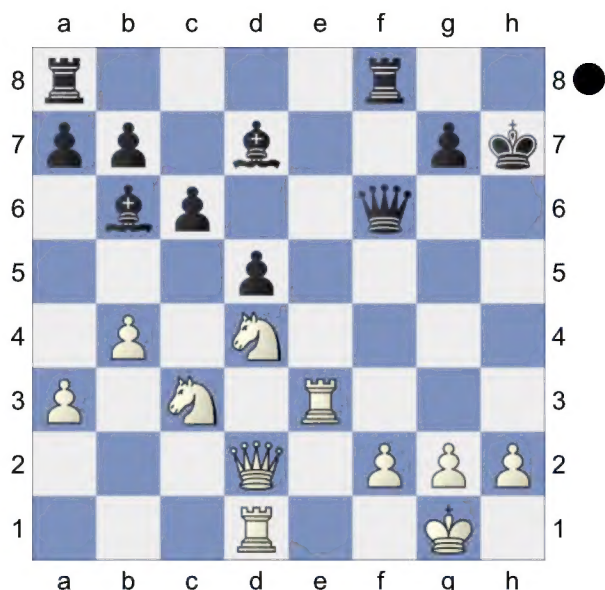
[Don't play 24...Bxe8 25.Na4]

25.Nce2 -3.10/20

[25.h3 -0.89/18]

25...Re4? -1.23/20

[25...Bg4-+ -3.10/20 is more deadly.



26.Qd3+ Qg6]

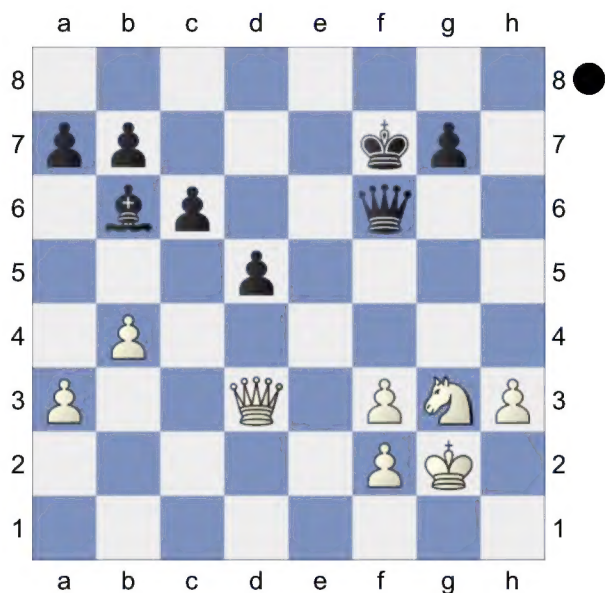
26.Nf3 aiming for Ng5+. 26...Kg8

27.Ng3 Re7 28.Re1 Bg4 -0.35/21

[28...Kf8 -0.99/22 29.Rf1 Bc7]

29.Rxe7 Qxe7 30.h3 Bxf3 31.gxf3

Endgame. KQB-KQN 31...Qf6 32.Kg2 Kf7 33.Qd3



Bc7 -0.28/21

[Black should play 33...g6! -0.72/20]

34.Qh7 Bxg3 35.fxg3 KQ-KQ. The position is equal. 35...Qb2+ 36.Kf1

Qxa3 37.Qf5+ Ke7 38.Qe5+ Kf7 39.Qf5+ Kg8 40.Qc8+ Kh7 41.Qf5+

Kg8 42.Qc8+ Kh7 43.Qf5+ Kg8

White happily takes the draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.27 (precise)

1/2-1/2

C48

Wei, Yi

2755

Abdusattorov, Nodirbek

2766

Warsaw Superbet Blitz (18) 12.05.2024

[Kitty Kat]

C48: Four Knights: 4 Bb5, replies other than 4...Bb4

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Bd6 5.d3 h6 6.a3 0-0

[6...a6 7.Bc4 Bc5 8.Be3 d6 9.d4 exd4 10.Nxd4 Bxd4 11.Bxd4 Be6 12.Be2 0-0 13.Be3 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Qxd5 Bxd5 17.f3 Rad8 18.Kf2 Be6 19.Rhd1 Bf5 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.Rc1 1-0 (57) Heasman, R (2514)-Malbran, E (2536) 40/731 Tunja 1985 (9)]

7.g4 Na5N 1.45/24

[7...Nxg4?! 8.Rg1+-]

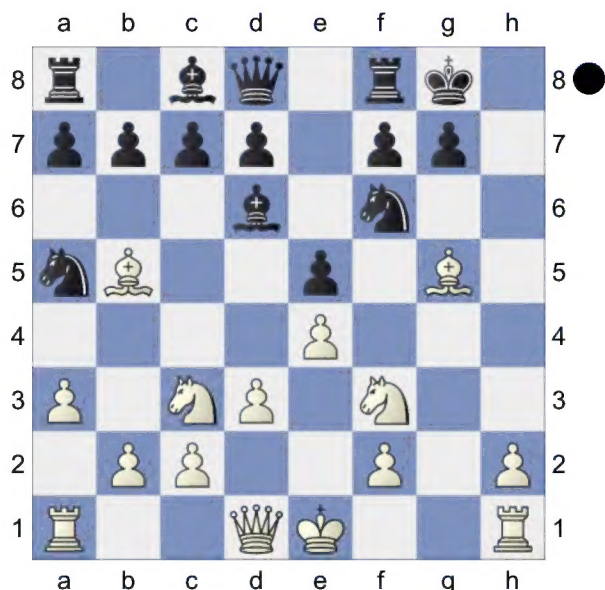
[7...Nd4!= 0.00/20]

[7...a6 8.Bc4 Bc5 9.Rg1 d6 10.h3 b5 11.Bb3 Kh8 12.g5 Nh7 13.gxh6 g6 14.Be3 Nd4 15.Bxd4 Bxd4 16.Nxd4 exd4 17.Ne2 c5 18.Bd5 Ra7 19.Nf4 Qh4 20.Qf3 Qxh6 21.0-0-0 Nf6 22.Kb1 1-0 (68) Aydincelebi, K (2280)-Buchenau, F (2222) Titled Tuesday intern op 21st Feb Early blitz 2023 (9) Re7 23.h4 Re5 24.Rg5 Rxd5 25.hxd5 Qxd5 26.Rh1+ Kg7 27.a4 bxa4 28.Ka2 Bd7 29.Ne2 Nxd5 30.exd5 Bg4 31.Qg3 Qxd5+ 32.Kb1 Qxh1+ 33.Nc1 Qd5 34.Qxg4 Qe6 35.Qg3 Rb8 36.Qf4 a3 37.b3 0-1 (68) 2. ♔g5

e6 3.e4 h6 4. ♔f6 ♠ (2039)-Kavalek,L
(2598) 94/132 San Luis 2005 (1)]

[7...Be7 8.g5 hxg5 9.Bxg5 d6
10.Rg1 Be6 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Qd2
Nh5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Qh6
Chapter-Games Chapter 4 (2)]

8.g5± White is clearly better. **8...hxg5**
9.Bxg5



Threatens to win with Nh4. **9...c6**
1.87/22

[9...Be7± **1.20/21**]

10.Bc4 **1.30/17**

[10.d4!+- **1.87/22**]

10...Nxc4 11.dxc4 Be7 12.Rg1

[12.Nxe5 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Bxg5+-]

12...d5 13.cxd5

[13.exd5 cxd5 14.cxd5 (14.Nxe5
d4±) 14...Bf5±]

13...cxd5 14.Bxf6 **0.54/20**

[14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Qxd5 Qxd5
16.exd5 f6±]

[14.exd5?! Bf5±]

[14.Nxe5 d4 15.Bh6 Kh7 (15...dxc3

16.Rxg7+ Kh8 17.Nxf7+ Rxf7

18.Qxd8+ Bxd8 19.Rxf7=) 16.Bxg7

(16.Rxg7+ Kxh6 17.Rxf7 dxc3±)

16...dxc3 17.Bxf8 Qd2+ 18.Qxd2

cx2+ 19.Kxd2 Bxf8=]

[14.Bh6+- **1.71/21** Ng4 (14...dxe4?

15.Rxg7+ Kh8 16.Qxd8+-) 15.Bxg7

Kxg7 16.Nxe5 dxe4 (16...f5?

17.exf5 Rxf5 18.Nxg4+-) 17.Rxg4+

(17.Nxg4 Qxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Rh8±)

17...Kh7 (17...Bxg4? 18.Qxg4+ Kh6

19.Rd1+-) 18.Rxe4 Qxd1+ 19.Rxd1]

14...Bxf6± 15.Nxd5 Be6 16.c4 **0.17/25**

White is much more active.

[White should try 16.Qe2± **0.69/21**]

16...b5= 17.cxb5 Rc8 18.a4 Rc4

19.Nc3 Qa5 Black has compensation.

20.Nd2 Rd4 Strongly threatening ...

Rfd8. 21.Qf3 Qd8↑ Black fights for an

advantage. **22.Nf1 Bg5** **0.07/19**

[22...Bh4!± **-0.63/23** 23.Ng3 Qg5]

23.Ne3 g6 Prevents Nf5 **24.Ned5 Kg7**

0.62/22

[24...Bxd5!= **-0.10/19** 25.Nxd5 f5]

25.Qg3 **-0.15/24**

[25.Ne2!± **0.62/22** Rc4 26.Qd3 Bxd5

27.exd5 (27.Qxd5 Qxd5 28.exd5

Be7±)]

25...Bd2+ 26.Kf1 **-1.29/22**

[26.Ke2!= **-0.12/22** remains equal.

Qd6 27.Qf3 (27.Rad1 Bxd5

Remove Defender 28.exd5 Bxc3=)]

26...Qd6± 27.Qf3 Bf4? **0.76/23**

[27...f5± **-0.98/23** stays on course. ...

fxe4 is the strong threat. 28.Qh5

Bxd5 (28...fxe4 29.Rxg6+ Kf7

30.Rg5#) 29.exd5 (29.Nxd5?

too greedy. Rxe4 30.Rd1 Rg4+-)

29...e4]

28.Ne2 **0.03/23**

[White should play 28.Rd1± **0.76/23**

Hoping for Rxd4. Rxd1+ 29.Qxd1]

28...Bxd5 **0.90/21**

[28...Rxd5= **0.03/23** keeps the

balance. 29.exd5 Bxd5]

29.Nxd4± Nf5+ would now be deadly.

29...Bc4+ This pair of bishops is nice.

30.Ne2 And now b3 would win.

30...Rd8? 2.60/20 A mistake that costs the game.

[30...Rh8± 0.85/23]

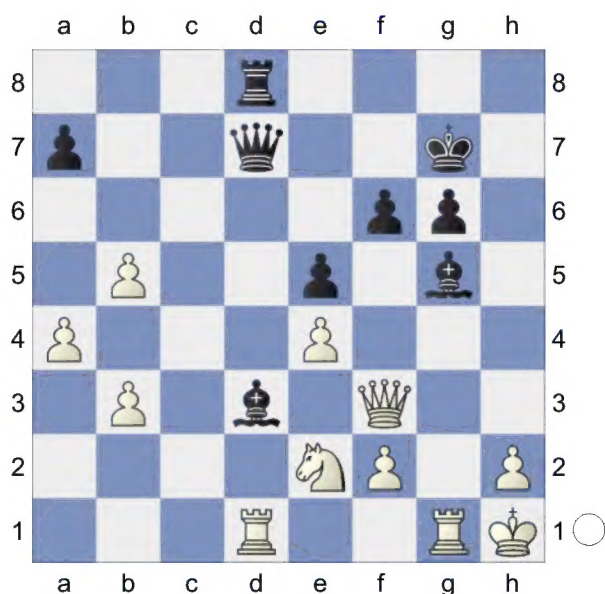
31.b3+- Bd3 4.29/22

[31...Bxe2+ 2.83/21 might work better. 32.Qxe2 (32.Kxe2 Qd2+ 33.Kf1 Qc2+-) 32...Qb4]

32.Rd1 White is clearly winning.

32...Qd7 33.Kg2 Bg5 34.Kh1 f6 6.49/19

[Δ34...Bh6 4.32/20 35.Nc1 Bxc1]



35.Rxg5! fxg5 36.Nc1 Rf8 37.Qxd3 Qg4 38.Qd7+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.62

1-0

□ Shevchenko,Kirill

B00
2677

■ Abdusattorov,Nodirbek

2766

Warsaw Superbet Blitz (15) 12.05.2024
[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5

4.Nc3 Qd6 5.d4 Nf6 6.Nb5 Qd8 7.c4 a6 8.Nc3 White is better. 8...Bg4 ...Bxf3 would now be deadly. 9.d5 Ne5 10.Be2 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Qd7 12.Be2 0-0-0 1.83/17

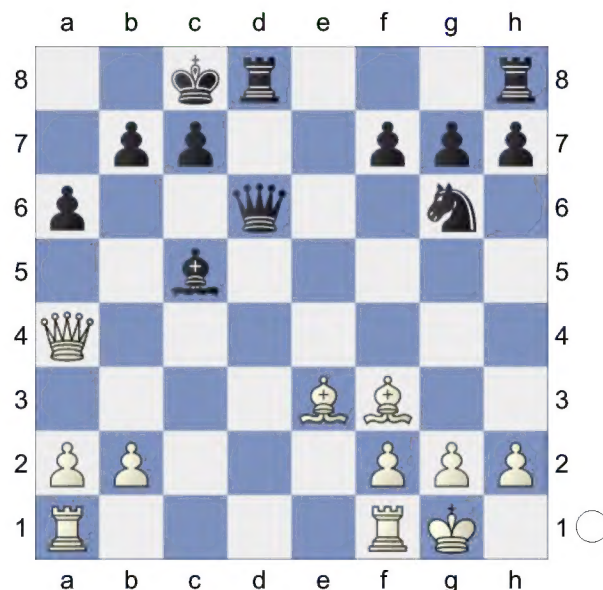
[12...e6± 0.51/17]

13.Bf4? 0.24/18

[13.Qd4!+- 1.83/17 Qf5 14.0-0]

13...Ng6= 14.Be3↑ Hoping for Qd4. White has some pressure. 14...e6 15.0-0 exd5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.cxd5 Qxd5 18.Qa4 Bc5 19.Bf3 White has compensation. 19...Qd6 2.38/24

[19...Qe5= 0.24/19 and Black has nothing to worry.]



20.Qb3? 0.04/24

[20.Qe4!+- 2.38/24 Bxe3 21.Qxb7+ Kd7 22.Rad1 Pin (22.fxe3 Rb8+-)]

20...Bb6 0.64/23

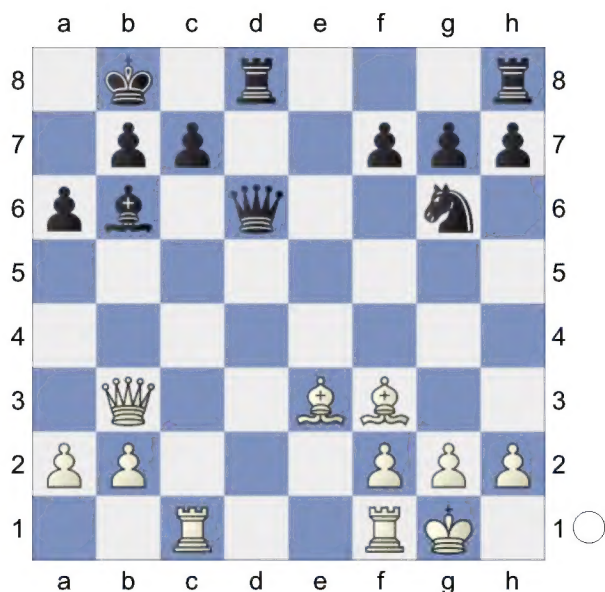
[20...c6!= 0.04/24]

21.Rac1

[21.Bxb6 simplifies Qxb6 22.Qxf7 Qf6 23.Qxf6 gxf6 24.Rad1]

21...Kb8

(Diagram)



Strongly threatening ...Ne5. **22.Rc6?**
-2.60/16 **bxc6+-** **23.Bxb6**

And now Bc5+ would win. This pair of
bishops is nice. **23...Qd3**

[23...cxb6 24.Qxb6+ Kc8 25.Qxa6+
Kb8 (25...Kd7? 26.Rd1+- Pin)
26.Qb6+ Kc8 27.Qa6+ Kb8
(27...Kd7? 28.Rd1+- Pin) 28.Qb6+
Kc8 29.Qa6+=]

24.Bxc7+? -4.32/18

[24.Qxd3 -2.47/19 Rxd3 25.Be3]

24...Kxc7 25.Qxf7+ Rd7 26.Qe6 Qd6
27.Qe3 Kb8 28.Rc1 Ne5 29.Be2 Qd4
30.Qg3 Rf8

[30...Qxb2 31.Qe3 Re8 32.Re1]

31.Rf1 Ka7 Threatens to win with ...c5!

[31...Qxb2 32.Bxa6 Rd2 33.Qe3]

32.h3 c5 Black is clearly winning.

33.Qa3 Rf6 34.Kh1 Nd3

[Worse is 34...Rxf2 35.Qxa6+ Kb8
36.Rxf2 Qxf2 37.Qb6+ Rb7
(37...Ka8 38.Qa6+ Kb8 39.Qb6+
Rb7 40.Qd8+ Ka7 41.Qa5+ Kb8
42.Qd8+ Ka7 43.Qa5+ Kb8
44.Qd8+=) 38.Qd8+ Ka7 39.Qa5+
Kb8 40.Qd8+ Ka7 41.Qa5+ Kb8
42.Qd8+=]

35.Bxd3 Qxd3 36.Qxc5+ Rb6 37.Rc1

Qd4 38.Qf8 Qxb2 39.Re1 Qd2
40.Re8 Ra8+ would kill now. 40...Qd1+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.55/
Black=0.28 (precise)

[Weaker is 40...Qxa2 41.Ra8+ Kb7
42.Qc8#]

0-1

C88
Sjugirov, Sanan **2703**
Carlsen, Magnus **2830**
Wch Blitz Samarkand (8) 29.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C88: Closed Ruy Lopez: Anti-Marshall
Systems

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1

[6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a3 0-0 9.Nc3
Na5 10.Ba2 Be6 (10...c5 11.Bg5
Be6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nd5 Nc6
14.c3 g6 15.a4 Bg7 16.Ne3 Bd7
17.Bd5 Qc7 18.Qb3 Rab8 19.axb5
axb5 20.Ra6 Ne7 21.Rfa1 Nc8
22.h3 h6 23.Nh4 Ne7 24.Ra7 Qd8
25.Nf3 1-0 (50) Karlusic,L (2352)-2.
Bg5 h6 3.Bh4 g5 4.e3,7 (2069)
Teusaquillo Rapid op 2023 (1)) 11.b4
Bxa2 12.Rxa2 Nc6 13.Bg5 Nd7
14.Bd2 Nf6 15.Qb1 d5 16.Bg5 dxe4
17.dxe4 Qd6 18.Qb3 Nd4 19.Nxd4
exd4 20.Bxf6 Bxf6 1/2-1/2 (41) Vachier
Lagrave,M (2804)-Aronian,L (2802)
FIDE World Cup 2017 (6.8)]

6...b5 7.Bb3 0-0N

[7...d6 8.d4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 exd4
10.c3 dxc3 11.Nxc3 0-0 12.a4 Bb7
13.axb5 axb5 14.Rxa8 Bxa8 15.Bg5
b4 A8) RL – 8th Move Alternati-8th
Move Alternatives – 8.]

8.a4 Rb8 9.axb5 axb5 10.h3 d6
11.Qe2 White is slightly better. 11...Bd7

12.Nc3 Nd4 13.Nxd4 exd4 14.Nd5
Nxd5 15.Bxd5 c6 16.Bb3 Ra8
17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.d3 Qc8 19.Bd2
Be6 20.Bxe6 Qxe6 21.Ra1
Repels Ra8 21...d5 22.Kf1 dxe4
23.Qxe4 Qxe4 24.dxe4± Endgame.
KRB-KRB 24...Rb8 1.36/23

[24...f5± 0.46/19]

25.Ra6 c5 26.Bf4 Rc8 27.Ra5 0.56/25

[27.Rb6± 1.26/22]

27...b4 28.b3 0.22/27

[28.Ke2± 0.74/21]

28...g5= 29.Bd2 c4 30.bxc4!

[30.Bxg5 f6 31.Bf4 d3=]

30...Rxc4 31.Ra2 White is more active.

[31.Bxg5 f6 32.Bd2 (32.Ra8+
Kf7) 32...Rxc2=]

31...Rc8 32.Ke2 Rb8 33.Kd3 f6 34.f4
0.09/21

[Much weaker is 34.Kxd4 Rd8+
35.Ke3 h6=]

[34.Kc4± 0.66/23]

34...gxf4 35.Bxf4

[35.Kxd4? loses. Rd8+ 36.Kc4
Rxd2-+]

35...Rb7 36.Kxd4 b3 The position is
equal. 37.Rb2 Rd7+! 38.Ke3 bxc2
39.Rxc2 Kf7 40.g4 Ra7 41.Rc3 Ke6
42.Kf3 Ra6 43.Rb3 Ra3 44.Rxa3
Bxa3 KB-KB 45.Kg3 Kf7 46.h4 Ke6
47.Kf3 Bc5 48.Bd2 Bd6 49.Bc3 Bc7
50.Bd4 Ba5 51.Be3 Be1 52.h5 Bb4
53.Bf4 Bc5 54.Ke2 Ba3 55.Kd3 Bc5
56.Kc4 Ba3 57.Kd3 Be7 58.Ke3
Bc5+ 59.Kf3 Ba3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08
(flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

1/2-1/2

□ Caruana,Fabiano B00

2794

■ Carlsen,Magnus 2830

CCT Final playoff rapid (3.2) 10.12.2023

[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5

[Psychologically annoying for Black is
the following position I reached in a
few blitz games recently: 3.exd5
Qxd5 4.Nf3 Bg4 (4...e5 5.Nc3 Bb4
6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.Bxc3 e4 8.Ne5 Nxe5
9.dxe5 Ne7 is maybe objectively not
too scary but it's also a bishop pair
for essentially nothing.) 5.Nc3 Qh5
6.d5 0-0-0 and now 7.Be2
gives Black an unpleasant three-way
choice:

A) 7...e5 8.Bd2 Nb4 9.0-0
threatens the e5-pawn. White has
to prepare this in order to play it,
but the work involved is not too
onerous. Nf6 10.Nxe5
Now the machine line is Bxe2
11.Qxe2 Qxe2 12.Nxe2 Re8
13.Nxf7 Rxe2 14.Bxb4 Bxb4
15.Nxh8 Bc5± with some objective
advantage to White (though of
course anything can happen);

B) 7...Bxf3 8.Bxf3 Qe5+ 9.Be3
leaves the c6-knight in an awkward
spot. e6 10.0-0 Nf6 (10...exd5
11.Nxd5 followed by c4 is also
annoying) 11.dxc6! Rxd1 12.cxb7+
Kb8 13.Rfxd1 Bc5 14.Rd3 Bxe3
15.Rxe3±;

C) 7...e6 leads to a forcing
sequence: 8.Ng5 Bxe2 9.Qxe2
Qxe2+ 10.Kxe2 Ne5 11.f4 h6
12.fxe5 hxg5 13.Bxg5 Be7
14.Bxe7 Nxe7 15.dxe6 fxe6

16.Rad1± Black has to put in work to win the e5-pawn, and even winning it will not necessarily bring equality.]

3...Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 It occurred to me while analysing this game just how many deep similarities there are with the fashionable 6...a5 Advance Caro, in terms of which moves by White prompt which replies by Black and so forth.

5.Bd3

[After the more often discussed 5.c3 f6 I recently took a look at an uncommon choice for White, and one which implies a gambit: (5...Nge7 6.Nh4 Bg6 7.Nd2 f6 8.exf6 gxf6 9.Nxg6 Nxg6 10.Qb3 a6 11.g3 h5 12.Nf3 Bd6 13.Bd3 Nge7 14.Nh4 Kd7 15.0-0 Qg8 16.Re1 Na5 17.Qa4+ Nac6 18.b4 e5 19.dxe5 fxe5 20.b5 1-0 (34) Kariakin,S (2753)-Maghsoodloo,P (2688) Wch Blitz St Petersburg 2018 (10)) 6.Nbd2!?

A) 6...Qd7 is reasonably convincingly met by the original 7.b4!? (7.exf6 Nxf6 8.Bb5 Bd6 9.Ne5 Bxe5 10.dxe5 Ng4 11.Nf3 is more normal but perhaps not as strong) 7...Bxb4 Not compulsory, but probably Black should try something to avoid the gradual space gain of Nb3, Bf4 etc. 8.cxb4 Nxb4 9.Nb3 Nc2+ 10.Kd2 Nxa1 11.Nxa1± 11 moves of chess have led to a knight in a 'friendly' corner and a king on d2- probably the first time I have encountered this particular combination! You would still take the pieces over the rook though: in all likelihood White's king is continuing its march to b2 and even a1 if necessary.;

B) 6...a6 is very cautious, but a

little slow: 7.Be2 Nh6 8.0-0 Nf7 9.Re1 fxe5 10.dxe5 Be7 11.Nb3±;

C) 6...fxe5 7.Bb5 exd4 (7...Nge7 8.Nxe5 a6 9.Bxc6+ Nxc6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.0-0 is positionally a bit difficult to handle.; 7...e4 8.Ne5±) 8.Nxd4 Nge7 9.N2f3 a6 10.Ba4 isn't really an advantage for White, but feels very uncomfy for Black.]

5...Bxd3N

[5...Nge7 6.0-0 (6.c3 Qd7 7.0-0 Bxd3 8.Qxd3 Nf5 9.Na3 Bxa3 10.bxa3 Na5 11.g4 Ne7 12.h3 h5 13.Nh2 hxg4 14.hxg4 0-0-0 15.Bf4 Nc4 16.Bg3 Rh3 17.Kg2 Rdh8 18.f4 f5 19.exf6 gxf6 20.f5 exf5 (26) Chapters-Games Chapters 49-52) 6...Bg4 7.c3 f6 8.Re1 fxe5 9.dxe5 Qd7 10.Nbd2 Bh5 11.Nb3 Ng6 12.h3 Nh4 13.Be2 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 Be7 16.Bd2 0-0-0 17.Rad1 Qe8 18.Qe2 g5 19.c4 Qg6 20.cxd5 (35) Chapter-Games Chapter 5 Game 7]

6.Qxd3 Qd7 7.c3 0.09/24

[7.0-0± 0.46/24]

7...f6= 8.0-0 The position is equal. **8...fxe5 9.dxe5** White has handled the opening in less than critical fashion, but Black still needs to pay attention to their knight deployment as the c6-knight lacks scope and the g8-knight could end up tripping over either its comrade or the f8-bishop. **9...a5** Carlsen opts to spend a tempo shoring up the c5-square, but this may not have been the best choice.

[After 9...Nge7 intending ...Ng6, Black is certainly not worse.]

10.Re1 -0.26/24

[The right bid for an opening edge was 10.c4! Nge7 11.Nc3 , and if

necessary Bg5 can also help in undermining the d5/e6 pawn formation.]

[Δ 10.Rd1 0.25/26]

10...Bc5 11.Nbd2 a4?! 0.91/25
Slightly overplaying his hand. Against Nb3

[The knight was not so strong on b3 that it had to be prevented, and it would have been vulnerable to a subsequent ...a4, e.g. 11...Nge7 12.Nb3 Bb6 13.Be3 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 b6= Wards off Nc5]

[11...Nge7= 0.08/23]

12.b4 0.36/22

[12.Ng5!→]

[12.Ng5!± 0.91/25]

12...axb3± 13.Nxb3 Bb6 14.Be3 Bxe3 15.Rxe3 -0.04/24

[15.Qxe3± 0.45/21 Nd8 16.a4]

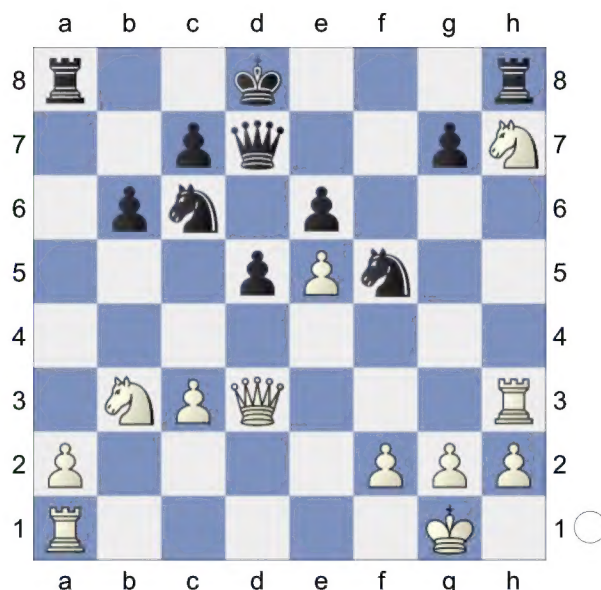
15...b6= Black is structurally better, and so White goes for piece activity. **16.Ng5 Nge7 17.Nxh7 Nf5 18.Rh3 Kd8 0.76/21**

[T h e i m m e d i a t e 18...Nxe5 was possible. Of course the obvious problem with it is 19.Nf6+ but the piece trades favour Black: (19.Qe2 aiming for Nf6+. Ng6 protects the h8-rook) 19...Ke7! 20.Nxd7 Nxd3 21.Nxb6 Nf4 22.Nxa8 Nxh3+ 23.gxh3 Rxa8± White has the least healthy extra pawn possible, to the extent that Black has more than adequate compensation on positional grounds alone.]

[18...Nxe5= -0.05/22 keeps the balance. 19.Qe2 Ng6]

(Diagram)

19.a4 -0.05/23



[Why didn't White try and keep the extra pawn with 19.f4!± ?]

[Better is 19.f4!± 0.76/21]

19...Nxe5 20.Qe2 Strongly threatening Nf6. **20...Ng6!↑** Black has some pressure. **21.Qg4** Dodges Nf4 **21...Ne5** Tacitly offering a draw.

[The combative 21...Nfh4 -0.39/19 21...Ne5 0.00 was available if White didn't want to do so.]

22.Qf4 Black must now prevent Nf6.

[22.Qe2!? Ng6 23.Qg4±]

22...Nf7

[22...Qd6 feels hotter. 23.Re1 Nf7 24.Ng5 Qxf4 25.Nxe6+ Kd7]

23.a5 Kc8 24.Re1?! -0.81/20
White plays for some sort of vague activity/coordination, which is usually a reasonable idea in rapid, but Carlsen calls the bluff.

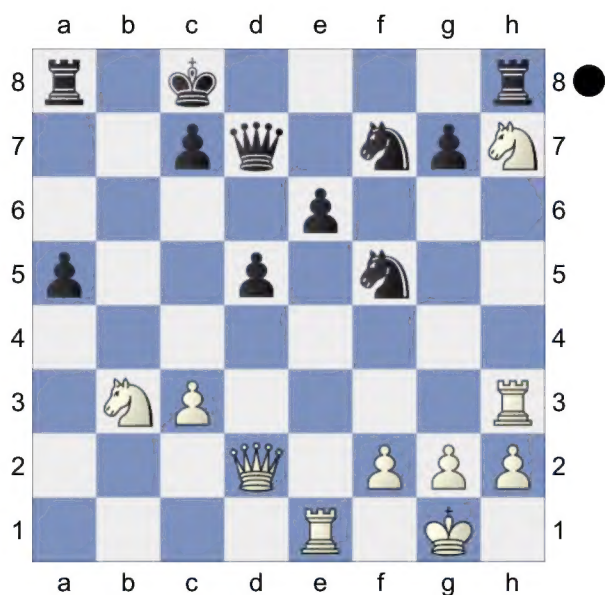
[24.axb6 Rxa1+ 25.Nxa1 cxb6 26.Nc2]

[24.c4± -0.39/21]

24...bxa5± 25.Qd2 -1.96/20

[25.Nc5 runs into Qd6 26.Nxe6 Qxf4 27.Nxf4 N5h6 trapping the knight for insufficient compensation.]

[25.Nd4± -0.99/22 Nxd4 26.Qxd4]



25...e5 -0.92/21 After this Black's position is decidedly more practical, and without too many adventures he converted.

[25...a4!-+ -1.96/20 has better winning chances. 26.Ra1 (26.Nc5? Qc6-+) 26...a3]

26.Ra1 -2.28/21 White does not recover from this.

[26.Rh5+ -0.92/21 keeps fighting. N7h6 27.Rxe5]

26...Qb5-+ 27.Qc2 N7d6 28.Nd2 a4 29.g4 Ne7 30.Nf3 -3.72/18

[30.Re3 -2.22/22]

30...Nc4 31.Nfg5 a3 32.Nf7 Re8 33.Nhg5 Qb2 34.Qd1

[Not 34.Qxb2? axb2 35.Rxa8+ Kd7 36.Rxe8 b1Q+ (36...b1B? too greedy. 37.Rd8+ Kc6 38.Nf3+-) 37.Kg2 Kxe8]

34...a2 35.Ne6 Qb6 36.Nfg5 e4 37.Kg2? -4.54/20

[37.Qc2 -2.75/18 Ng6 38.Nxg7]

37...Ra5 ...Ng6 would now be deadly.

38.Nxg7 Rf8 39.Qe2 Qb1

Weighted Error Value: White=0.45/

Black=0.23 (precise)

0-1

B08

□ **Bjerre,Jonas**

2633

■ **Carlsen,Magnus**

2829

Budva

15.12.2023

[D Fernandez, Kitty Kat,]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.d5 Nb8 Carlsen has long favoured this approach, since any temporary disadvantage is often outweighed by his better understanding of exactly how to exploit pawn structure finessees. **6.Be2 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3**

[It seems that 8.a4 is slightly surplus to requirements right now, with Black not having spent time on the queenside just yet, and there are good chances of equality starting with the timely e6 , e.g. 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Nd4 Bd7 11.Re1 Re8 12.Bf1 Nc6= Pichot,A-Carlsen, M INT 2019]

8...c6

[8...e6 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Bf4 (10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Nc6 12.Qd2 Kh7 13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 d5 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Ne4 Bf5 18.Ng3 Be6 19.Bf3 c6 20.Ne4 Bf5 21.Ng3 Be6 22.Ne4 Bf5 23.Nc5 Qf6 24.Bxd5 Rad8 (38) Main line 6.h3 / 7. Be2-N,N) 10...Nc6 11.Re1 Re8 12.Qc1±]

9.a4 a5N The main move, but Carlsen's first time playing it.

[An older game featured 9...b6 10.Nd4 Bb7 11.a5 Svidler, P-Carlsen, M Riadh 2017, and now a6! 12.axb6 Qxb6 13.Be3 Ne6! would now be deadly. Qc7! looks likely to yield

some sort of Dragondorf structure.]

[Maybe mathematically more precise, but difficult for a human player to acquiesce to, is the IQP option: 9...cxd5 10.exd5 e5 (10...Nbd7 11.Be3 a6 12.Nd4 Qc7 13.a5 b5 14.axb6 Nxb6 15.Nc6 Bb7 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.Bxb6 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Qxd5 Qxe2 20.Bd4 Bxd4 21.Qxd4 Rfc8 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Wagner,R (2467)-195. (2395) 126/(116) Jerusalem 2015) 11.dxe6 If White doesn't take, then some kind of ...Nh5 and ...f5 cannot be far away. Bxe6 12.Bf4 d5 13.Nb5 Nc6 14.c3 a6 15.Nbd4± Popov,V-Kabanevsky, A email 2018. Maybe this is not much for White, but it's enough to feel that Black doesn't have many winning chances.]

10.Re1 Na6 It's probably best for Black to adopt an attitude of studied indifference towards White's stated intent of pushing e5.

[10...Qc7 11.Bf4 Nbd7 12.Qd2 Re8 1.08/24 (12...Nc5± 0.55/20) 13.Bf1 Nh5 14.Bh6 Bh8± 1.33/20 was slightly bizarrely agreed drawn here in Vokhidov,S-Naroditsky,D INT 2023, but White is close to winning. ($\triangleleft$ 14...Ne5 0.83/20)]

[After 10...Nbd7 White should snap it off with the other bishop: 11.Be3 Nc5 12.Bxc5 dxc5 13.Bc4±]

11.Bf1 White is more active. White is slightly better.

[11.Bxa6! is the right strategic operation, when Black will have to rock the boat sooner or later because White's building moves are more useful ones: Rxa6 12.Be3 Re8 (12...e5 13.dxe6 Bxe6 14.Qe2± is very unpleasant) 13.Qd2

(The engine likes 13.Bd4 but I can see this getting out of control relatively quickly after c5 14.Bxf6 exf6 followed by ...f5. Black's bishops have useful diagonals and there is also the possibility of ...Rb6 coming in at an inconvenient moment.) 13...b5 (13...Bd7 14.Rad1 Ra8 15.Bd4±) 14.axb5 cxb5 15.Nxb5 Black must now prevent Qd3. Nxe4 16.Qd3 Nc5 17.Bxc5 dxc5 18.Qc4±]

11...Nb4 12.Bg5 Bd7 Carlsen plays for ...cxd5.

[Another possibility is to play for ...e5, e.g. 12...h6 13.Be3 Kh7 14.Bd4 Qc7 15.Qd2 e5 16.dxe6 Bxe6 17.Rad1 Rad8 with a normal Philidor position.]

13.Qd2 Rc8 Trying to keep the c3-knight pinned, and thus highlight the superiority of the b4-knight over it.

[Liquidating straight away with 13...cxd5 14.Nxd5 Nbx5 15.exd5± lets White keep a nice pull.]

14.g3?! -0.12/20 I find this thought process a bit difficult to understand, since the bishop doesn't really belong on g2 anyway.

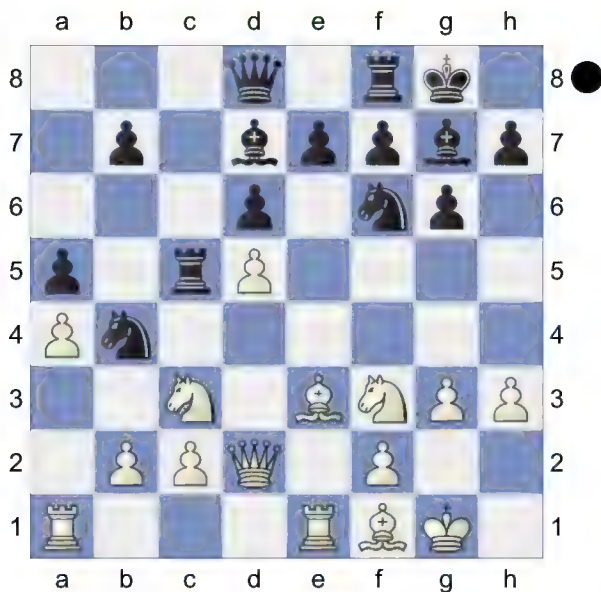
[Preferable was 14.dxc6 Bxc6 15.Rad1 Nd7 although, in fairness, the move White needs to play here to keep an advantage is far from obvious (at least to me.) It is not even illuminating enough to include in the file.]

[14.dxc6!± 0.66/21 Bxc6 15.Nd4]

14...cxd5= 15.exd5 Rc5 Black's position is already much more practical. **16.Be3**

[16.Nd4 intends Bg2 and to some extent could be considered to tactically protect the d5-pawn, but the position of White's rooks is

unfortunate: Nfxd5 17.Nxd5 Rxd5
 18.c3 -1.31/24 (18.Bxe7 ̄ -0.64/25
 Rxd4 19.Qe2) 18...Rxc3 -0.60/19
 (18...Nc6?! -0.21/20 18...Bxd4 -1.01
 19.Bg2; 18...Bxd4! ̄ -1.31/24
 19.cxd4 Rxc3 20.Qxc3 Nc2)
 19.Qxc3 Bxd4 20.cxb4 (20.cxd4
 Nc2 is the bigger problem with White's
 rook placement.) 20...Bxb2 21.Rab1
 Bc3 ̄]



16...Rxc3 Of course, Black takes the opportunity for the thematic Sicilian sacrifice. We are nearly in a Dragon pawn structure anyway, so it makes sense. **17.bxc3 Ne4 18.Qc1 Nxc3 19.Bd4 Nbx5** Excellent horsemanship. **20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Bc4** Playing for activity is the right move. **21...e6**

[21...Bxh3 is also possible, though it feels like a bit of a hot pawn to grab: 22.Qd2 (22.Qb2 -1.10/21 22.Qd2 -0.28 e6! ...Qf6 is the strong threat. 23.Bxd5 Qf6 is a rather well-hidden tactical point.) 22...e6! aiming for ...Qf6. 23.Ra3 Hoping for Ng5! Qf6! 24.Bxd5 Nxd5 25.Nd4! White has an annoying amount of activity for a

small material investment.]

[21...Bxa4? 22.Bxd5 Nxd5
 23.Rxa4+-]

22.Bxd5 exd5 23.Nd4?! -1.32/19 Extremely tempting, but White had better ways to channel the aggression that this position indisputably demands.

[23.Qf4 Qf6! Threatens to win with ...Ne2+! 24.Qxf6+ Kxf6 25.Ra3 Nxa4 26.Nd4 ̄ Black is slightly better, but White keeps a lot of active play.]

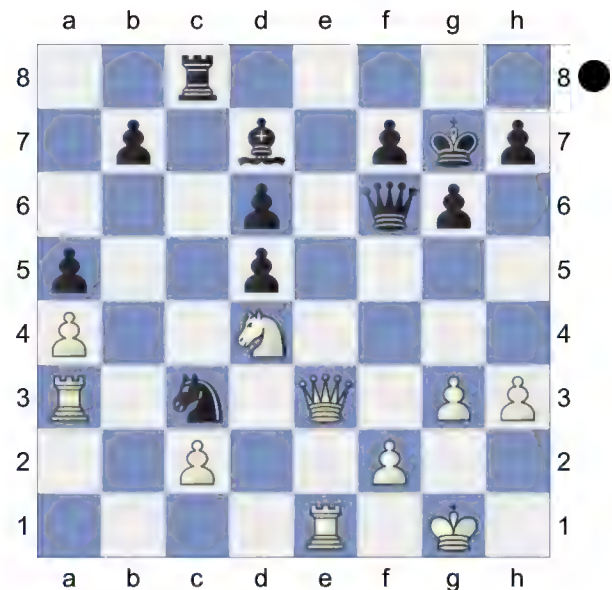
[23.Qe3 ̄ -0.31/26 Qf6 24.g4]

23...Qf6! ̄

[23...Nxa4 24.Rxa4 Bxa4 25.Qa1+-]

[23...Bxh3? 24.Qb2+-]

24.Qe3 Rc8 25.Ra3



Ne4

[25...Nxa4 26.Qe7 Nc5 (26...Bxh3? 27.Rxa4 b6 28.Qxf6+ Kxf6 29.Ra3+-; 26...Qxd4? 27.Qxd7 Nb6 28.Qxb7+-) 27.Qxf6+ Kxf6 28.Rxa5 ̄]

26.Rd1 Rc4 27.Ne2 Rxc2?! -0.18/17

[The controlled play was 27...Qe5 28.f3 Nf6 -1.15/20 : in an aphorism my students are by now very tired of hearing, 'grandmasters prefer attacking pawns to taking them!'

(Black should play 28...Bc6+ -1.77/21 29.Kg2 d4 30.Rxd4 Rxc2 31.fxe4 Rxe2+ Remove Defender, Deflection 32.Qxe2 Qxd4)]

[27...Rxa4 28.Rxa4 Bxa4 29.Rxd5=]
[27...Bxh3 28.Rxd5 Bd7 29.Rd4 Rxd4 30.Nxd4+]
[27...Bc6+ -1.73/20 28.f3 Nc5]

28.Rxd5= Nc5 29.Nd4 Dodges Bc6
29...Rb2 0.37/21

[29...Rc4 keeps White's queen more or less locked in position.]

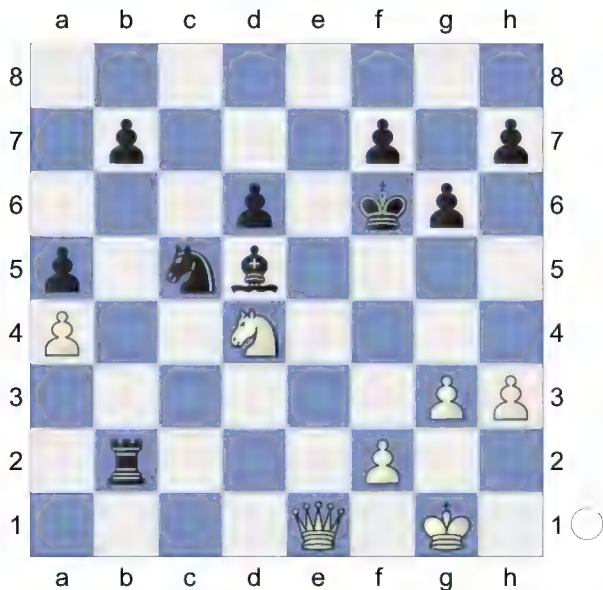
[29...Rc4! -0.38/25]

30.Qe1! Cuing up Rf3, and Black surprisingly doesn't have any very convincing answer. It's time for Carlsen to be resourceful and fight to save the game. **30...Bc6?** 2.43/22

[30...Nxa4? 31.Rf3 (31.Qxa5? Qxf2+ 32.Kh1 Qh2#) 31...Qd8 32.Rxd6+- (32.Rxa5 Nc5±)]

[30...Kf8!± 0.40/21]

31.Rf3!+- Bxd5 32.Rxf6 Kxf6



33.Nf5! An incisive move to acquire an objectively decisive advantage just before the time control. Decoy **33...Kxf5**
34.g4+

[34.Qxa5? Rb1+]

34...Kf6 35.Qc3+

[35.Qxa5? Rb1+ 36.Kh2 Bc6+ (36...Rh1+? 37.Kg3+-)]

35...Ke6 36.Qxb2 Bb3 37.Qe2+ Kd5 38.Qf3+

[38.Qe7 seems to have been stronger, expressing willingness to allow queenside passed pawns in exchange for kingside ones. Kc6? 4.03/23 (38...Kc4 2.47/18 39.Qxf7+ d5) 39.Qe8+- Kc7 40.h4 This specific move is not maybe that important, but the philosophy is. Nxa4 (After 40...b6 41.h5 Nxa4 42.h6 followed by Qh8, Black's play looks too slow.) 41.Qb5 Nc5 42.Qxa5+ Kd7 43.Qc3 There is a huge amount of technical work to be done, but by limiting Black to two disconnected passed pawns, White has hugely weakened the scope of any counterplay.]

38...Ke6 39.g5 Kd7 40.h4 Kc7 41.h5 1.39/22

[41.Qe3+- 1.91/23]

41...gxh5± 42.Qxh5 0.81/29

[42.Kh2+- 1.68/22 and White stays clearly on top.]

42...b5 43.axb5

[According to the cloud engines 43.Qe2 0.74/17 43.axb5 1.11 might still have been winning, but this is unreasonable to expect of a human player.]

[43.Qxh7 Kb6 44.axb5 a4+-]

43...Kb6 Now White should set up a perpetual check before the a-pawn gets anywhere properly annoying, which he proceeds to do. **44.Qe2** 0.00/30

[44.Qxh7?! a4 45.Qh8 a3 46.Qb8+ Nb7±]

[44.Qh6± 0.63/26 a4 45.Qxd6+ Kxb5 46.Qb8+ Kc4 47.Qa7]

44...a4= The position is equal. **45.Qe8**

a3 46.Qc6+ Ka5 And now ...a2 would win. **47.Qa8+**

[47.Qxd6 a2 48.Qf6 (48.Qxc5? a1Q+ 49.Kh2 Qd1+-) 48...Kxb5]

47...Kb4! 48.b6 a2 49.b7 Nxb7

50.Qxb7+ Kc3 51.Qa7 Kb2

Prevents Qa3+ 52.Qd4+ Kb1 53.Qe4+

[53.Qxd6? a1Q (53...a1B? 54.Qd3+ Bc2 55.Qd5+-) 54.Qc5 Qb2+-]

53...Kb2 54.Qd4+

[54.Qxh7 a1Q+ (54...a1B? 55.Qh6+-) 55.Kg2 Bd5+ 56.f3 Qc1 57.Qh8+ Qc3+-]

54...Kb1 55.Qe4+

[55.Qxd6? perishes. a1Q (55...a1B? loses. 56.Qd3+ Bc2 57.Qf1+ Kb2 58.Qc4+-) 56.f3 Qc3+-]

55...Kb2 White really could win this.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)

1/2-1/2

B08
 2633
 2829
 EU-chT 24th Budva (7.1) 18.11.2023
 [Kitty Kat]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.d5 Nb8 6.Be2 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3 c6

[8...e5 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Nc6 12.Qd2 Kh7 13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 d5 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Ne4 Bf5 18.Ng3 Be6 19.Bf3 c6 20.Ne4 Bf5 21.Ng3 Be6 22.Ne4 Bf5 23.Nc5 (38) Main line 6.h3 / 7.Be2-N,N]

9.a4! is recently more successful than 9. Re1. ist inzwischen erfolgreicher als 9. Te1. **9...a5N**

[9...cxd5 10.exd5 Nbd7 11.Be3 a6 12.Nd4 Qc7 13.a5 b5 14.axb6 Nxb6 15.Nc6 Bb7 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.Bxb6 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Qxd5 Qxe2 20.Bd4 Bxd4 21.Qxd4 Rfc8 1/2-1/2 Wagner,R (2467)-195. (2395) 126/(116) Jerusalem 2015]

10.Re1 Na6 11.Bf1 White is more active. White is slightly better. **11...Nb4**

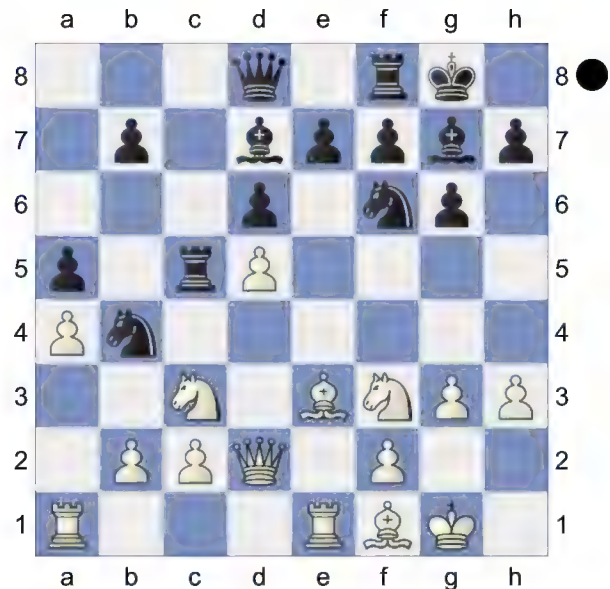
12.Bg5 Bd7 13.Qd2 Rc8N

[Vorgänger: 13...Re8 14.Rad1 Qc7 15.b3 Rad8 16.Bc4 Bc8 17.Re2 0.60/22 (17.Qc1± 0.99/20) 17...Nd7± 18.dxc6 bxc6 19.Qf4! Nf6! 1/2-1/2 Lacko,P (2235)-Bletz,H (2325) Rilton Cup-14 1984/85 (7)]

14.g3 -0.39/20

[14.dxc6!± 0.75/21 Bxc6 15.Nd4]

14...cxd5 15.exd5 Rc5 16.Be3



Rxc3 17.bxc3 Ne4 18.Qc1 Nxc3 With the idea ...Qc7! **19.Bd4 Nbx d5** White must now prevent ...e5. Excellent horsemanship. **20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Bc4! e6** Hoping for ...Qf6.

[21...Bxa4? 22.Bxd5 Nxd5 23.Rxa4+-]

22.Bxd5 exd5 23.Nd4 -1.23/20

[Better is 23.Qf4 ♖ -0.60/24]

23...Qf6! ♜

[23...Nxa4? 24.Rxa4 Bxa4

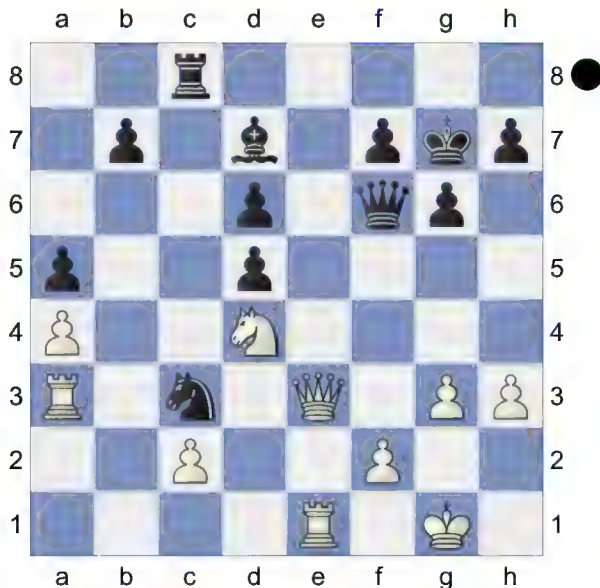
25.Qa1+-]

[23...Bxh3? 24.Qb2+-]

24.Qe3 -1.67/22

[24.Qf4 ♜ -1.11/22 was necessary.]

24...Rc8+ 25.Ra3



Ne4

[25...Nxa4 26.Qe7 Nc5 (26...Bxh3? 27.Rxa4 Rc4 28.Qxf6+ Kxf6 29.Rea1+-; 26...Qxd4? 27.Qxd7 Nb6 28.Qxb7+-) 27.Qxf6+ Kxf6 28.Rxa5 ♜]

26.Rd1 Rc4 27.Ne2 Rxc2 -0.39/20

[27...Rxa4 28.Rxa4 Bxa4 29.Rxd5 ±]

[27...Bxh3 28.Rxd5 Nc5 29.Nd4=]

[27...Bc6+- -1.84/21 28.f3 Nc5]

28.Rxd5 ♜ Nc5 29.Nd4 Rb2 0.24/22

[Black should play 29...Rc4 ♜ -0.33/24]

30.Qe1= Bc6? 2.38/22

[30...Nxa4? 31.Rf3 (31.Qxa5? Qxf2+ 32.Kh1 Qh2#) 31...Qd8 32.Rxd6+- (32.Rxa5 Kg8 ±)]

[30...Kf8!= 0.28/22 and Black has nothing to worry.]

31.Rf3!+- Bxd5 32.Rxf6 Kxf6

(Diagram)



33.Nf5! White threatens Qe7+ and mate.

Decoy 33...Kxf5

[33...Rb3 34.Nxd6]

34.g4+

[34.Qxa5? Rb1+]

34...Kf6 35.Qc3+

[35.Qxa5? Rb1+ 36.Kh2 Rh1+

37.Kg3 Bc6+-]

35...Ke6 36.Qxb2 Bb3 37.Qe2+ Kd5

38.Qf3+ Ke6 39.g5 Kd7 40.h4 Kc7

41.h5 gxh5 42.Qxh5 1.21/27

[42.Kg2+- 1.81/22]

42...b5 43.axb5 0.75/19

[43.Qxh7 Kb6 44.axb5 a4+-]

[♠43.Qe2 1.36/25 bxa4 44.Qb5]

43...Kb6± 44.Qe2 0.00/32

[44.Qxh7 a4 45.g6 fxe6+-]

[44.Qh2 ± 0.65/26 a4 45.Qxd6+ Kxb5

46.Qb8+ Ka5 47.Qa7+ Kb4

48.Qb6+ Kc4 49.Qa5]

44...a4= The position is equal. 45.Qe8

a3 46.Qc6+ Ka5 ...a2 is the strong

threat. 47.Qa8+

[47.Qxd6 a2 48.Qd4 (48.Qxc5?

a1Q+ 49.Kh2 Qd1+-) 48...Kxb5]

47...Kb4! 48.b6 Threatens to win with

b7. 48...a2 49.b7 Nxb7 50.Qxb7+

Kc3 51.Qa7 Kb2 Dodges Qa3+

52.Qd4+ Kb1 53.Qe4+

[53.Qxd6? a1Q (53...a1B? 54.Qd3+ Bc2 55.Qd5+-) 54.f3 Qc3-+]

53...Kb2 54.Qd4+

[54.Qxh7? too greedy. a1Q+ (54...a1B? loses. 55.Qf5+-) 55.Kg2 Qa5-+]

54...Kb1 55.Qe4+

[55.Qxd6? perishes. a1Q (55...a1B? 56.Qb4+-) 56.f3 Qc3-+]

55...Kb2 Black escapes into a draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)

1/2-1/2

□ Vokhidov, Shamsiddin

B06

2596

■ Carlsen, Magnus

2830

Titled Tuesday intern op 19th Dec Early ..

[Kitty Kat]

B06: Modern Defence

1.e4 Moradiabadi, Elshan 1...Nc6 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Bc4N

[4.d5 Ne5 5.Nxe5 Bxe5 6.Nc3 d6 7.Be2 Bg7 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Bg5 c6 10.Qd2 cxd5 11.exd5 0-0 12.Rfe1 Bf5 13.Bc4 Rc8 14.Bb3 a6 15.Re2 Re8 16.Rae1 Chapter-Games Chapter 7 Game 6]

[4.Nc3 d6 5.h3 Nf6 6.Bb5 0-0 7.0-0 a6 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Re1 Nd7 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Rb8 12.b3 c5 13.Nd5 g5 14.Bg3 e6 15.Ne3 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Bb7 17.Nc4 Ba8 18.c3 Nc5 (21) 8.Bc6-N,N 2015 19.f3 f5 20.exf5 exf5 21.b4 Chapter Bauer-Games Chapter Game 4]

4...d6 5.0-0 Nf6 6.Qe2 Bg4 7.c3 e5 8.Bb5 -0.09/22

[8.Rd1± 0.40/24]

8...Nd7 0.43/24

[8...exd4= -0.09/22 9.Bxc6+ bxc6]

9.Bxc6 -0.39/21

[9.d5± 0.43/24 Ne7 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3]

9...bxc6 10.Rd1 0-0 11.h3 Bxf3

12.Qxf3 Re8!?N 0.00/24

New and interesting. Theoretisch interessant.

[Vorgänger: 12...exd4 -0.04/20

12...Qh4 -0.41 13.cxd4 c5 14.Be3

Rb8 15.Qe2! Rb4 16.a3 Rb3!

17.Ra2 Qb8 18.Qc2 a5 19.dxc5

Nxc5 20.Bxc5 dxc5 21.Qxc5

1-0 Vallejo Pons, F (2716)-Carlsen, M

(2823) Grand Slam Final 4th 2011

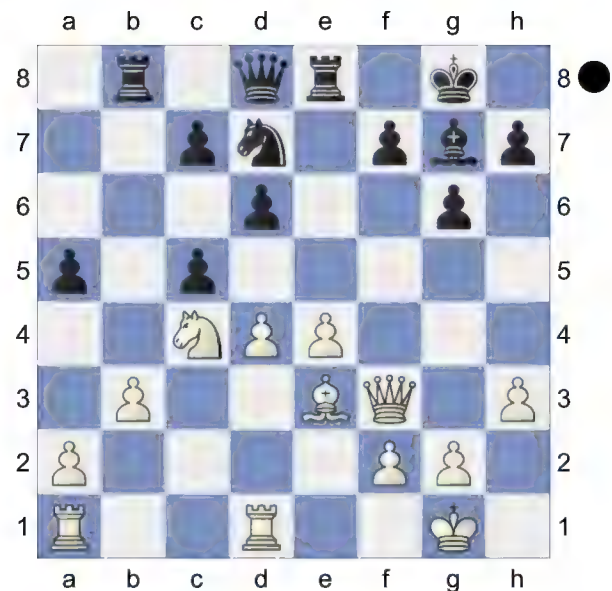
(3)]

[12...Qe8 0.38/24]

13.Be3 Rb8 14.b3 a5 0.22/26

[14...Qh4 -0.21/21 is superior.]

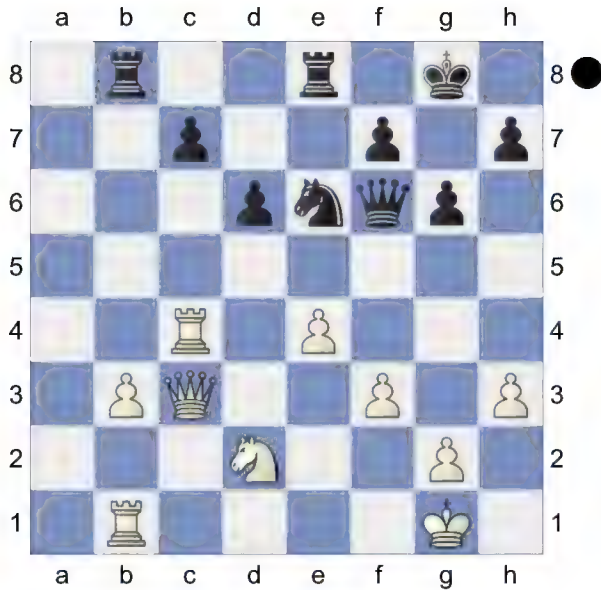
15.Nd2 exd4 16.cxd4 c5 17.Nc4



a4! 18.Rab1 axb3 19.axb3 cxd4 20.Bxd4 Bxd4 21.Rxd4 Qe7 22.Qc3 Qf6 ...Rxe4 is the strong threat. 23.f3 Nc5 24.Nd2 Ne6 25.Rc4 -1.15/21

[25.Rd3 0.40/23 Qxc3 26.Rxc3]

(Diagram)



25...Qxc3 -0.31/18

[Black should try 25...Qg5! ♖ -1.15/21
And now ...Nf4 would win. 26.Rb2 Nf4]

26.Rxc3 ♗ Ra8 27.Nc4 Ra2 aiming for ...Nf4. 28.Rb2 Rxb2 29.Nxb2= Endgame. KRN-KRN 29...Ra8 30.Nd3 Ra1+ 31.Kf2 Ra2+ 32.Kf1 Kg7 33.Nb4 Rb2 34.Nd3 Rb1+ 35.Kf2! g5 36.b4 h5 37.g3 Rh1 38.e5 dxe5

[38...Rxh3? 39.Kg2 g4 40.Nf2 dxe5 41.Nxh3 gxh3+ 42.Kxh3+-]

39.Nxe5 Rh2+ 40.Kg1 Re2 41.Nc4 Kg6 42.Ne3 Rb2 43.Nd5 Nd4 44.Kf1 c6 45.Ne7+ Kf6 46.Nxc6 Ne2 47.Rc5 Nxg3+ 48.Kg1! Ne2+ 49.Kf1? -3.78/24
Loses the game.

[49.Kh1! ♗ -0.42/20]

49...Nf4-+ 50.h4? -7.24/19

[50.Rb5 -3.70/20]

50...gxh4 Black is clearly winning.

51.Nd4 Threatens to win with Rf5+.

51...h3

[Stronger than 51...Rxb4 52.Rf5+ Kg6 53.Rxf4±]

52.Rf5+ Kg6 (-> ...h2) 53.Rxf4 KRN-KR 53...Rb1+

[Worse is 53...Rxb4 54.Kg1±]

54.Kf2 h2!

[54...Rxb4? is the wrong capture.
55.Kg3+-]

55.Rh4 h1Q 56.Rxh1 Rxh1 57.b5 Rb1 58.Ke3 h4 ...h3 would now be deadly. 59.Kf4 Rb4 60.Ke3 h3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/
Black=0.09 (flawless)

0-1

B08
♠ **Sadhwani,Raunak** **2654**
♣ **Moussard,Jules** **2611**

Chess.com Classic Div 3 W rapid (1.3)

[Kitty Kat]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Be2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 a6 8.d5

[8.a4 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Be3 Qe7 11.Qc1 Rd8 12.Rd1 Be6 13.Ng5 Nd4 14.Nxe6 Qxe6 15.Bd3 Rd7 16.Rd2 Rad8 17.Qf1 Nh5 18.Rad1 Nf4 19.Bc4 Qe7 20.Bxf4 exf4 21.Nd5 Qxe4 22.Re1 Qf5 0-1 (60) Eden,J (2311)-Bauer,C (2596) Paris Rapid op 2023 (1)]

8...Nb8 9.a4 e5

[9...c6 10.Be3 a5 11.Nd2 Na6 12.Nc4 Nd7 13.Bd4 Nb4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Bf3 Ne5 16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Nb1 cxd5 18.exd5 f5 19.c3 Na6 20.Na3 Rf6 21.Nc4 Qc7 22.Be2 Nc5 23.Re1 b6 24.Bf1 1-0 (36) Weenink,H (2295)-Lewkowitz,A (2251) Chigorin mem op 2000 (4)]

10.dxe6N White is better.

[10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Ne8 12.Nd2 f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.f4 exf4 15.Bxf4 Nd7 16.Nf3 Ne5 17.Qd2 Kh7 18.Nd4 c5 19.dxc6 bxc6 20.a5 c5 21.Nf3 Ng6 22.Be3 Bb7 23.Na4 Nf6 24.Bd3

Ne4 1-0 (60) Di Gennaro-Gatto,C Italy
 ch-1 category-2 1971 25.Bxe4 fxe4
 26.Nh2 Qe7 27.Rad1 Rxf1+ 28.Nxf1
 Bc6 29.Nb6 Rd8 30.Bxc5 dxc5
 31.Qxd8 Qxd8 32.Rxd8 Bd4+
 33.Kh1 e3 34.Nxe3 Bxe3 35.Rd6
 Ne5 36.Re6 Bf4 37.Nc4 Nxc4
 38.Rxc6 Nxa5 39.Rxc5 Bd2
 1-0 (60) Di Bucchianico,A-Leeners,H
 K-15 1985 40.Rc7+ Kg6 41.Ra7
 Nc4 42.Rxa6+ Kf5 43.b3 Ne5
 44.Kg1 Ke4 45.Kf2 Kd4 46.g3 Kc3
 47.Ke2 Bc1 48.Re6 Kd4 49.c3+
 Kd5 50.Ra6 Kc5 51.Ra5+ Kd6
 52.c4 Nc6 53.Rd5+ Ke6 54.Kf3
 Ne7 1-0 (60) Schlender,H-Liying,P
 (open) 84/(109) 2002]

10...Bxe6 11.Be3 Nc6 12.Qd2 Re8
 0.67/21

[12...d5= 0.27/21 was preferable.]

13.Bh6 0.04/19

[13.Bg5± 0.67/21]

13...Bh8 0.87/22

[13...d5= 0.04/19 14.Bxg7 Kxg7
 15.exd5 Bxd5]

14.Rfe1 0.21/18 White is more active.

[14.Bg5± 0.87/22]

14...d5!= 15.exd5

[15.Bd3 seems wilder. Nb4 16.e5
 Nd7 17.Bg5]

15...Nxd5 16.Nxd5 Qxd5 17.Qxd5
Bxd5 18.c3 Against Nb4 **18...Na5**
19.Nd2 c5 20.Rac1 Bf6 21.Bf1 c4
22.Rcd1 Rxe1 23.Rxe1 Rc8 24.Rd1
Be6 25.Ne4 Be7 26.Be2 b5 0.49/25

[26...f6= 0.01/23 deserves
 consideration.]

27.axb5± axb5 28.Nd6 Rb8 29.Bf4
Nxf7! is the strong threat. **29...Rb6**
30.Ne4 0.04/23

[30.Ne8± 0.42/23 should be
 considered.]

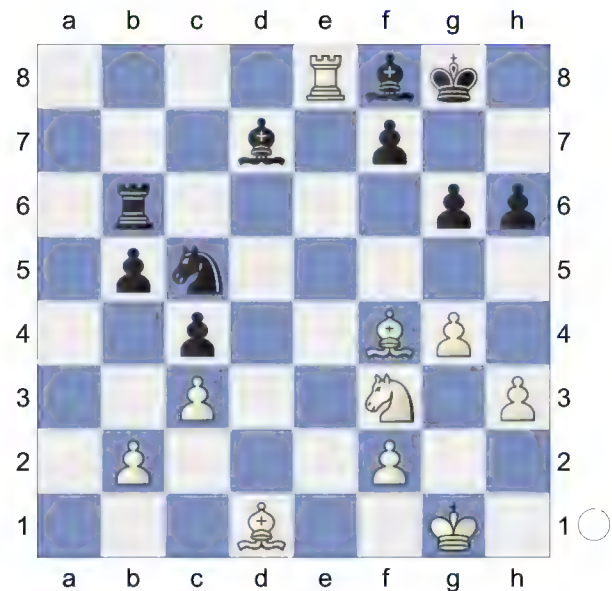
30...Nb3= 31.Ng5 Bf5 32.g4 Bc8

33.Re1 Threatens to win with Bxc4!
33...h6 34.Nf3 Bf8 35.Bd1 Strongly
 threatening Re8. **35...Nc5** 0.87/26

[35...Rf6= 0.00/27 remains equal.
 36.Bxh6 Bd7]

36.Re8± Bd7 1.92/29

[36...Ne6± 0.88/23 might work
 better.]



37.Ra8? -0.01/24

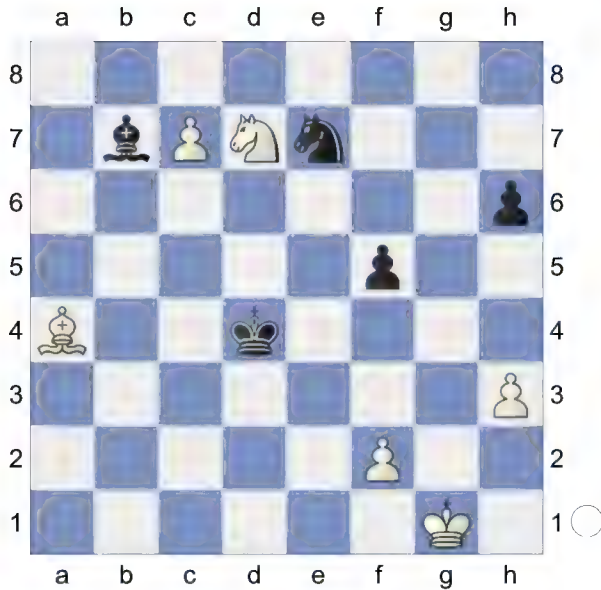
[White has to play 37.Rxf8+!+- 1.92/29
 Kxf8 38.Be3]

37...Ra6!= 38.Rxa6 Nxa6 39.b3 cxb3
40.Bxb3 Nc5 41.Bc2 Na4 42.Be5
Bg7 43.Bxg7 Kxg7 Endgame. KBN-
 KBN **44.Ne5 Be8 45.c4 b4 46.Nd3**
 Prevents Nc5 **46...Nb6 47.Bb3 Kf6**
48.Nxb4 aiming for f4. **48...Ke5 49.c5**
Nc8 50.Nd5 f5 51.gxf5 gxf5 52.Nb6
Ne7 53.Ba4 Bh5 54.Nd7+ Kd4?
 3.51/24

[54...Ke6!= 0.09/24 and Black is
 okay.]

55.c6+- Bf3 56.c7 Nb6 would now be
 deadly. **56...Bb7**

(Diagram)



57.Nb6 0.00/31

[57.Bb3!+- 2.56/26]

57...Kc5= The position is equal.

58.c8Q+ Deflection 58...Bxc8 59.Nxc8
Nxc8 KB-KN 60.Kg2 Kd4 61.Kf3 Ke5
62.Bc2 Ne7 63.Bd3 Nc6 64.Bb1
Nd4+ 65.Kg3 Ne6 66.Kh4 Nf4 67.Bc2
Kf6 68.Bb1 Kg6 69.Kg3 Ne2+ 70.Kf3
Nc3 71.Bc2 Kg5 72.h4+ Kf6 73.Kf4
Nd5+ 74.Kf3 Ke5 75.Bb1 Nf4 76.Bc2
Ng6 77.Kg3 Ne7 78.Bb3 Nc6 79.Bc2
Nd4 80.Bb1 Ne2+ 81.Kf3 Nc3 82.Bc2
Nb5 And now ...Nd4+ would win. 83.Bd3
Nd4+ 84.Kg3 Ne6 85.Bb1 Nc5
86.Bc2 Nb7 87.Kf3 Nd6 88.Kg3 Nb5
89.Bd3 Nc3 90.Kf3 Na4 91.Bc2 Nc5
92.Kg3 Nd7 93.Kf3 Kf6 94.Kf4 Ne5
95.Bxf5 Nc4 96.Bd3 Nd6 97.Kg4 Nf7
98.f4 Nd6 99.Kh5 Kg7 100.Kg4 Kf6
101.Kh5 Kg7 102.Kg4 Ne8 103.Kf3
Kf6 104.Kg4 Kg7 105.Kf3 Nf6
106.Bc4 Kf8 107.Bd3 Ke7 108.Bc4
Kd6 109.Bb3 Kc5 110.Ba2 Kd4
111.Bf7 Kd3 112.Bg6+ Kd4 113.Bf7
Kd3 114.Bg6+ Kd4 115.Bf7

Weighted Error Value: White=0.20
(precise) /Black=0.26 (precise)

1/2-1/2

C44
 2731
 2583
 Titled Tuesday intern op 12th Mar Late b..
 [Kitty Kat]

C44: Ponziani Opening and Scotch Gambit

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.c3 e5
 [4...g6 5.Bd3 Bg7 6.Na3 (6.0-0 0-0
 7.h3 e5 8.Na3 d5 9.Bg5 dxe4
 10.Bxe4 exd4 11.Bxc6 dxc3 12.Qa4
 bxc6 13.Qxc6 cxb2 14.Rad1 Bd7
 15.Qc2 Qc8 16.Qxb2 Ne4 17.Qb4
 Re8 18.Kh2 Bf8 19.Qa5 Bd6+
 20.Kg1 Bxh3 0-1 (24) 5.♘c3 ♘f6 6.
 ♙e2 ♙g7 7-Sowa,M 65/581 United
 States 1995) 6...0-0 7.0-0 e5 8.dxe5
 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Qe2 Qe7
 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Bc4
 Bd7 14.Rad1 Rad8 15.Rd3 h5
 16.Qe3 a6 17.Rfd1 Bg4 18.f3 Bc8
 19.Bb3 1-0 (47) Becerra Rivero,J
 (2565)-Ehlvest,J (2607) Open
 Chicago USA 2006 (6)]

5.Bd3 Bg4 6.d5 Nb8 7.h3N
 [7.c4 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Be3 a5
 10.h3 Bd7 11.g4 c5 12.Ne2 Ne8
 13.Ng3 g6 14.Bh6 Ng7 15.Qd2 f6
 16.0-0 Rf7 17.Nh2 Bf8 18.f4 Be8
 19.f5 g5 20.Nf3 Nh5 21.Nxh5
 Bxh6 1-0 (46) Cunliffe,S-Stewart,A
 British CC Ch 1978-9]

7...Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nbd7 9.c4 0.74/21
 [♞9.g4 1.14/21]

9...g6 White is better. 10.Nc3 h5
 11.Bc2 Bh6 12.Bxh6 Rxh6 13.Qe3
 Rh8 14.a3 Kf8 15.b4 0.13/23
 [15.h4± 0.65/20]

15...a5= Hoping for ...axb4. 16.0-0 Kg7
 17.c5 axb4 18.axb4 Qe7 19.c6 bxc6
 20.dxc6 Nb6 21.Bb3 Rbh8 0.92/23
 [21...d5!= 0.16/21 22.Qc5 (22.Bxd5

Qxb4 23.Rab1 Qd4=; 22.Nxd5
 Nbx d5 23.Bxd5 Qxb4=; 22.exd5
 Qxb4 23.Na2 Qb5+) 22...Qxc5
 23.bxc5 Nc4 (23...Rxa1? 24.Rxa1
 Nbd7 25.cxd7+-) 24.Bxc4 (24.exd5
 Nd2+) 24...dxc4]

22.Ra5 0.04/23

[22.Rab1± 0.92/23]

22...Nc8 1.00/22

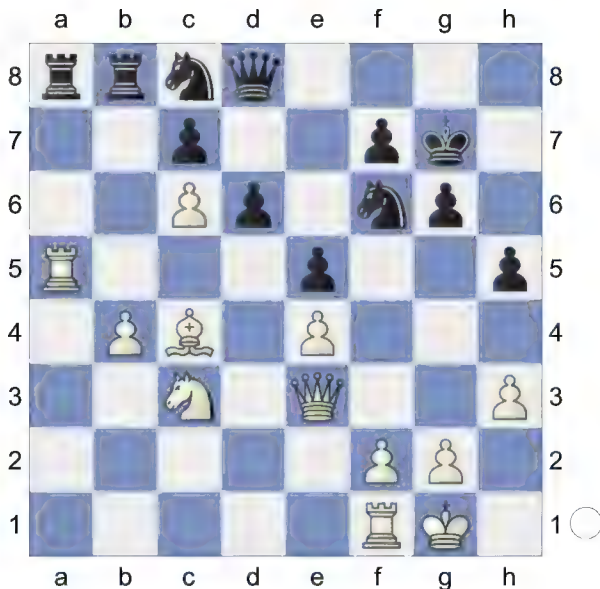
[22...d5!= 0.04/23 remains equal.
 23.Nxd5 Nbx d5 Remove Defender
 24.exd5 Qxb4 25.Rxa8 Rxa8]

23.Bc4 0.15/22 White is much more
 active. Black is weak on the light
 squares

[23.Nd5!± 1.00/22 Nxd5 24.Bxd5]

23...Qd8 1.82/24

[23...Nb6= 0.15/22 24.Bb3 Rxa5
 25.bxa5 Qe8 26.axb6 Qxc6]



24.Rfa1 0.94/23

[24.f4!+- 1.82/24]

24...Ne7± 25.b5↑ White is really
 pushing. 25...Rxa5 26.Rxa5 d5 1.51/21

[26...Nc8!± 0.52/20]

27.Nxd5 Nfx d5 2.88/30

[27...Nc8± 1.23/19 28.Nxf6 Qxf6]

28.exd5+- Qd6 29.Qa7 Rb6 30.Ra6

Nc8? 4.75/32

[30...Nxd5 1.90/25 might work better.
 31.Bxd5 Rxb5]



31.Qa8? 0.00/30

[Only move: 31.Qb7!+- 4.75/32 Rxa6
 (31...Rxb7? loses. 32.cxb7
 Discovered Attack Nb6 33.b8Q+-)
 32.bxa6]

31...Rxa6!=

The position is equal.

32.bxa6 Endgame. KQB-KQN 32...Nb6

33.Qb7 Nxc4 34.a7 Nb6 35.Qxb6

Remove Defender 35...cxb6 36.a8Q

Inhibits Qf8. 36...Qxd5 KQ-KQ 37.Qc8

Qd1+ 38.Kh2 Qd4 39.Qd7

Qxd4 would now be deadly. 39...Qf4+

40.Kg1 g3 is the strong threat.

40...Qc1+ 41.Kh2 Qf4+ 42.Kg1

Black must now prevent g3. 42...Qc1+

43.Kh2 Qf4+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/
 Black=0.36

1/2-1/2

□ **Kravtsiv,Martyn** **B00**
 ■ **Praggnanandhaa,Rameshbabu** **2598**

Titled Tuesday intern op 19th Dec Early ..
 [Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.d5 Nb8 6.Bg5

[6.g3 Bg7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 e6 9.Re1 exd5 10.exd5 Bg4 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nbd7 13.Bd2 h5 14.Bg5

1-0 Kravtsiv,M (2598)-Praggnanandhaa,R (2612) Titled Tuesday intern op 01st Feb-B blitz 2022 (5)]

[6.Be3 Bg7 7.Qd2 0-0 8.h3 c6 9.g4 b5 10.a3 Qa5 11.Rb1 b4 12.axb4 Qxb4 13.Bd3 cxd5 14.g5 Nh5 15.Nxd5 Qb7 16.Qb4 Qxb4+ 17.Nxb4 Bacrot,E (2714)-Hera,I (2620) 137/(40) France 2018]

6...Bg7 7.Qd2N

[7.h3 Nbd7 8.Bc4 0-0 9.0-0 c6 10.Qe2 Qc7 11.Rad1 a6 12.Rfe1 cxd5 13.Bxd5 Nc5 14.e5 dxe5 15.Nxe5 Chapter-Games Chapter 13 Game 7]

7...Bg4!? 1.08/21 A promising side line.
 Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.
 [7...c6± 0.66/21]

8.Nd4± White is better.

[Vorgänger: 8.0-0-0 0.57/24
 8.Nd4 1.14 c6 9.Be2 0-0 0.88/22
 (9...Nbd7± 0.34/22) 10.h4 0.52/20
 (Better is 10.Bh6!± 0.88/22) 10...b5
 1.31/21 (10...h5± 0.52/20) 11.dxc6
 Nxc6 12.Bxb5 Qb6 ...Nxe4! would
 now be deadly. 13.Bxc6 1.12/23
 (♞13.Be3 1.48/21 Qb7 14.Bxc6
 Qxc6 15.Nd4) 13...Qxc6 1.50/19
 (♞13...Rab8 1.12/23 14.b3 Qxc6)

14.Nd4 1-0 Matinian,N (2475)-Theodorou,N (2554) Titled Tuesday intern op 16th June blitz 2020 (4)]

8...c5 9.Nde2 0.74/24

[♞9.Nb3! 1.24/24]

9...b5 10.f3

[Don't play 10.Nxb5 Nxe4 11.Qf4 Bf5 (11...Bxb2 12.Qxe4 Bxe2 13.Rb1=; 11...Qa5+ 12.c3)]

10...Bd7 11.Ng3 Qa5 1.68/20

[11...h6± 0.61/23 12.Bf4 b4]



12.Nxb5!+- Discovered Attack 12...Qb6 13.c4

[Much less strong is 13.a4 a6±]

13...Bxb5 14.cxb5 a6 15.a4 Qb7 16.bxa6 Nxa6 17.Bb5+ Nd7

Black is weak on the light squares

18.Bc6 1.00/20 A strong pair of Bishops.

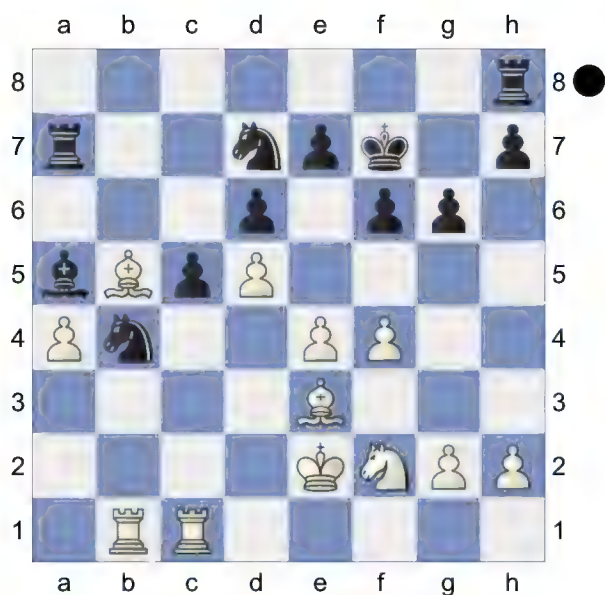
[18.0-0+- 2.28/23]

18...Qxb2± 19.Qxb2 Bxb2 20.Rb1 Bc3+ 21.Ke2 Ra7 22.Rhc1 Bb4 23.Bb5 0.52/19

[23.e5!± 1.07/20 Black must now prevent e6. dxe5 24.Ne4]

23...f6± 24.Be3 Kf7 25.Nh1 Ba5 26.Nf2 Nb4 27.f4? -1.53/20

[27.Rb2± 0.75/20 stays on course.]

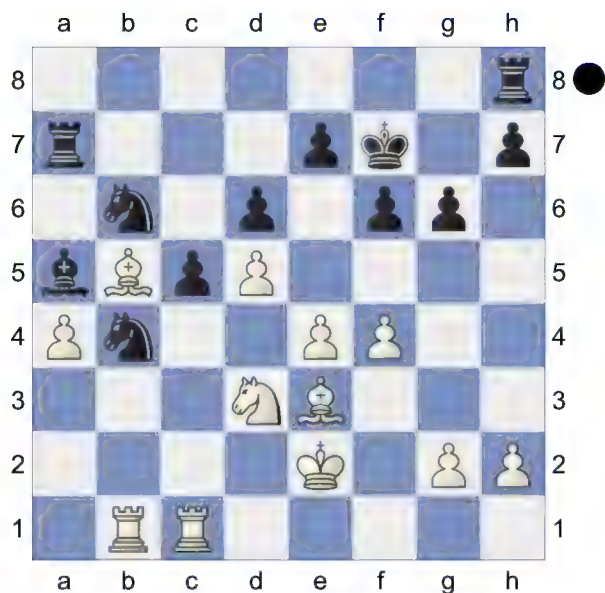


27...Nb6? 0.00/23

[27...Na2!± -1.53/20 28.Kf3 Nxc1
29.Rxc1 h5]

28.Nd3 -1.50/24

[28.Rb3= 0.00/23]



28...Na2!± 29.Rc2 Nc3+ 30.Rxc3
Bxc3 31.Rb3 Bd4 32.Bxd4 cxd4
33.Nb4? -4.23/20

[33.Rb4± -1.22/20 is more resistant.]

33...Nxa4+ 34.Nc6 Wards off Rb8

34...Nc5 Black is clearly winning. 35.Rb2

Dodges Ra2 35...Ra3 36.Nxd4 Nxe4
37.Bd7 Rha8 38.Be6+ Kf8 What a bad
dream for White.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/
Black=0.17 (very precise)

0-1

B08

□ Martinez Alcantara, Jose Eduardo

■ Naroditsky, Daniel 2619

Titled Tuesday intern op 30th Apr Early b..
[Kitty Kat]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3
g6 5.Bb5 a6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.h3 Bg7
8.Be3 0-0 9.0-0 Rb8 10.b3N

[10.Rb1 Bb7 11.Qd2 Re8 12.Bh6
Bh8 13.Rfe1 Nd7 14.e5 c5 15.exd6
Bxf3 16.dxe7 Rxe7 17.gxf3 cxd4
18.Nd5 Re5 19.Nf4 Qh4 20.Ng2
Qxh3 21.Rxe5 Nxe5 22.Qf4 Nxf3+
23.Kf1 Re8 11) 2.Nf3: Model Games-
Polzin,R]

10...Bb7 11.Qd3 White is slightly better.
11...Nd7 12.Rad1 a5 13.Rfe1 Re8
14.Bg5 0.19/22

[14.Qd2± 0.56/21 might be stronger.]

14...h6 15.Bh4 0.00/22

[Better is 15.Be3± 0.51/21]

15...c5= 16.d5 Qc8 17.Bg3 e5
18.Nb5 Ba6 19.c4 -0.89/22

[19.a4!= 0.21/26 remains equal.]

19...Qb7 0.43/20

[19...Bxb5± -0.89/22 20.cxb5 a4]

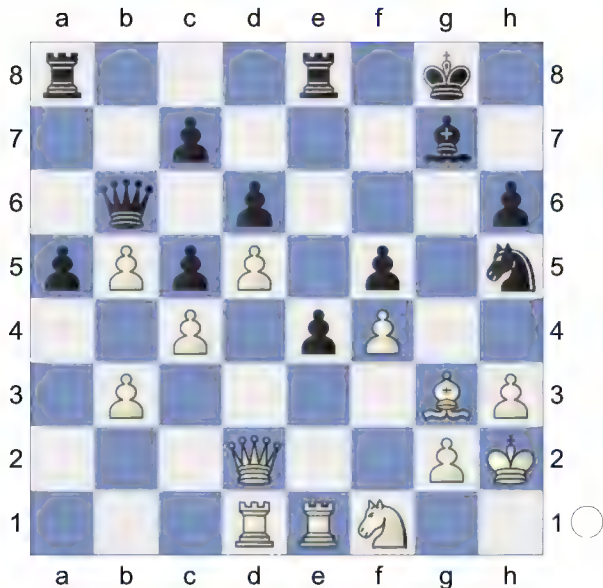
20.a4± Nf6 21.Qd2 Qb6 22.Nh2 Nh5
23.Nf1 f5 1.30/23

[23...Re7± 0.40/24]

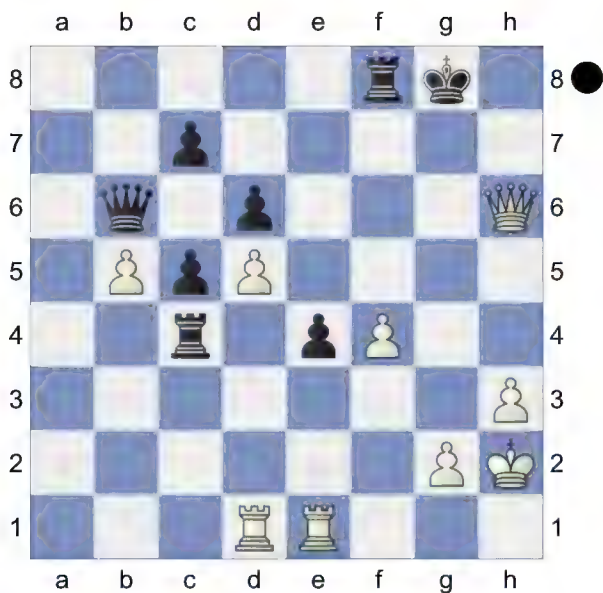
24.exf5± gxf5 25.f4 White is more
active. 25...Bxb5 26.axb5 e4 27.Kh2
1.15/21

[27.Qe2+- 1.78/22 Bd4+ 28.Kh1

(28.Rxd4 Nxc3 29.Nxc3 cxd4±)]
27...Ra8? 3.81/21
 [27...Qb7± 1.15/21]



A mistake that costs the game.
28.Qe2!+- Nxc3 29.Nxc3 Rf8
 Black is weak on the light squares
30.Qh5 a4 31.bxa4 Rxa4 32.Nxf5
Rxc4 33.Nxh6+ Bxh6 34.Qxh6



Intending Re3 and mate. **34...Qxb5**
35.Re3 Kf7 36.Qe6+
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very

precise) /Black=0.70
1-0

B06
 2514
 2701
 CHN-RUS Stars m blitz (5) 05.11.2024
 [Kitty Kat]

B06: Modern Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3
g6 5.Be3 Bg7 6.Qd2 Ng4 7.Bg5 h6
8.Bh4 White is better. **8...Nf6**
 8...a6 is a critical line. 8...a6 ist die
 kritische Fortsetzung. **9.0-0-0 g5**
10.Bg3 Nh5 11.d5 Nb8 12.Nd4N
0.52/21 White is more active.

[12.Be2 c5 Inhibits Nd4. 13.Ne1
 Nxc3 14.hxc3 Qa5 15.f4 Na6
1.55/21 (15...g4 **0.85/21**) 16.e5
1.08/19 (16.fxg5 **1.55/21** hxc3
 17.Qxc3) 16...Bd7 17.Qe3 0-0-0
 18.Nf3! 0-1 (64) Resa,T (2032)-
Forthoffer,P (2170) Oberliga Sued W
0910 2009 (8.4)]
 [12.Be2± **0.92/19**]

12...c5± 13.dxc6 Nxc6 14.Nf5 -0.51/17
 [14.Nb3± **0.58/22**]
14...Bxf5 15.exf5 Qa5 16.Bc4 Bxc3
-0.45/21
 [16...Qxf5 17.f3 Qc5]

17.bxc3 -1.12/18
 [17.Qxc3 18.bxc3]
17...Qxf5 18.Rhe1 0-0 -0.59/19
 [Black should play 18...Nxc3
-1.39/20 19.hxc3 Rd8]

19.Bd5 Rac8 -0.36/19
 [19...Nxc3 20.hxc3 e6]
20.h4 -1.78/20
 [Only move: 20.Bxc6 Rxc6
 21.Rxe7]
20...Nf6 -0.81/22

[20...Nxb3+ -1.78/20 and Black stays clearly on top. 21.fxb3 e6]

21.Bb3 Ne4 -0.49/19

[Black should try 21...Rc7 -0.85/20 22.Re3 Kg7]

22.Rxe4 Deflection 22...Qxe4 23.hxg5 Na5

[23...Qxg2 24.gxh6 Kh8 25.Qg5±]

24.Bd5 -0.99/19

[24.gxh6 -0.46/20 Nxb3+ (24...Qxg2 25.Qg5+ Kh8 26.Qg7#) 25.axb3]

24...Qg6 25.gxh6 Nc4 Against Qe3 26.h7+ -1.25/17

[26.Qf4 Nb6 27.Bxb7 Rxc3=]

[26.Qe2 -0.69/19 Qg5+ (26...Qxh6+ 27.Kb1=) 27.Kb1]

26...Kh8!

[26...Kxh7 27.Qe2 Qh6+ 28.Kb1=]

[26...Qxh7?! 27.Qg5+ Qg7 28.Qh5 (28.Qxg7+? Kxg7 29.Bxb7 Rc5+; 28.Qxe7 Qxc3 29.Qg5+ Qg7=) 28...Qxc3 29.Bxf7+ Rxf7 30.Qg4+ Rg7 31.Qxc8+ Kf7 32.Qf5+ Ke8 33.Qc8+ Kf7 34.Qf5+ Ke8 35.Qb5+ Kf8 36.Qf5+ Kg8 37.Qc8+ Kf7=]

27.Qd4+ -1.55/21

[27.Qe1 -1.12/18 Rfe8 (27...Qxh7? 28.Rd4+-) 28.f3]

27...e5! 28.Qh4 Na3 0.00/21

[28...Nb6+ -1.63/20 ...Nxd5 would now be deadly. 29.Bb3 Rxc3 (29...Qxh7 30.Qf6+ Kg8 31.Bxe5±)]

29.Rd3 -0.81/22

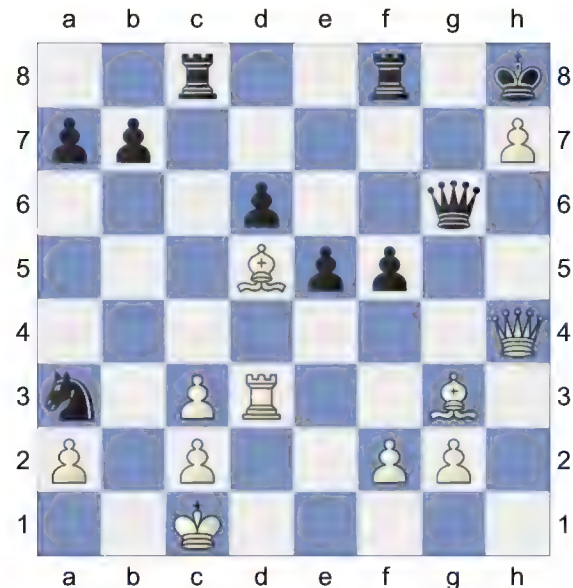
[29.Kb2!= 0.00/21 keeps the balance. Qxc2+ 30.Kxa3 Rxc3+ (30...Qxd1 31.Qf6+ Kxh7 32.Be4+ Kg8 33.Qg5+ Kh8 34.Qh6+ Kg8 35.Qh7#) 31.Bb3 Qxd1 (31...Rxb3+ 32.axb3 Qxd1 33.Qf6+ Kxh7 34.Qf5+ Kg8 35.Qg5+ Kh7 36.Qf5+ Kh8 37.Qf6+ Kg8 38.Qg5+ Kh7 39.Qf5+=) 32.Qf6+ Kxh7 33.Qf5+

Kh6 34.Qf6+ Kh7 35.Qf5+ Kg8 36.Qg6+ Kh8 37.Bxe5+ dxe5 38.Qh6+ Kg8 39.Qg6+ Kh8 40.Qh6+ Kg8 41.Qg6+ Kh8]

29...f5? 3.74/22

[29...Qxh7? 30.Qf6+ Qg7 31.Bxe5 (31.Qxd6 Nb5+-; 31.Qxg7+ Kxg7 32.f4 e4+) 31...dxe5 32.Rh3+ Kg8 33.Rg3+-]

[29...b5! -0.81/22 stays on course. Hoping for ...f6! 30.Qe7 Qh6+ (30...Qxh7? 31.Bh4+-; 30...Kxh7? 31.Bxe5 Qh6+ 32.f4+-) 31.f4 (31.Kb2? Nc4+ 32.Bxc4 bxc4+-) 31...f6 (31...Qxh7? 32.Be1+-; 31...exf4 32.Bf2+) 32.Qxa7 b4 (32...Qxh7? 33.Qxa3 Rcd8 34.Qb4+-)]



30.f4? 0.61/18

[30.Bxb7? Rb8 31.Bxe5+ dxe5+-]

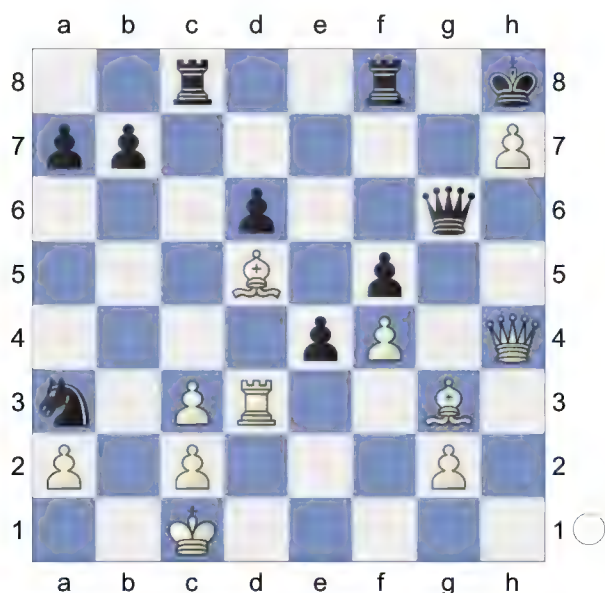
[30.c4? Nxc4 31.Rc3 (31.Bxc4? f4+-) 31...b5+-]

[30.Bxe5+!- 3.74/22 dxe5 31.Rg3 Qxh7 32.Qg5]

30...e4? 4.33/19

[But not 30...Qxh7 31.Qxh7+ Kxh7 32.fxe5 dxe5 33.Bxe5=]

[30...Nb5± 0.61/18 31.fxe5 f4
(31...Rxc3 32.exd6 Qg7 33.Qh2=)]



31.Bf2!+- Threatening mate with Bd4+. This pair of bishops is nice. **31...Nb5** 7.47/23

[Weaker is 31...exd3 32.Bd4+]

[31...Nxc2 4.12/21 32.Rg3 Qxh7
33.Qxh7+ Kxh7]

32.Rg3 White is clearly winning.

32...Qxh7 33.Qg5 Rxc3 34.Rxc3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/
Black=0.74

1-0

□ Van Foreest,Jorden

■ Dubov,Daniil

MrDodgy Online Inv Gp-A 3rd blitz (5)

[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3
Na5N

[4...Bb4 5.Nge2 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5
7.0-0 Be6 (7...Bxc3 8.Nxc3 Be6
9.Nxd5 Bxd5 10.Qg4 Qd6 11.Qxg7

0-0-0 12.Qh6 Rhg8 13.Qxd6 Rxc2+
14.Kh1 Rg1+ 15.Kxg1 Rg8+
0-1 Ratkovich,I (2320)-Brestak,J
World Blitz 2019 (5) 8.Bxd5 Bxd5
9.f4 0-0 10.f5 Bxc3 11.bxc3 f6
12.Ng3 Kh8 13.Qg4 Qd7 14.Ne4 b6
15.Qh4 Ne7 16.g4 Qa4 17.Rf3
Qxc2 18.Rh3 Bg8 19.Ba3
0-1 (73) Dragnev,V (2508)-Harikrishna,
P (2743) 43rd Olympiad 2018 Open (2.
2)]

5.Bb3 Nxb3 6.axb3 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5!
7...Nxd5 is better than 7...Bb4.
7...Sxd5 ist besser als 7...Lb4. **8.Nf3**
Bb4 9.Bd2 0-0 10.Nxd5 Bxd2+
11.Nxd2N

[Predecessor: 11.Qxd2 Qxd5 12.0-0
f6 13.Qe3 b6 14.c4 Qb7 15.b4 a5
16.b5 Bg4 ½-½ (16) Schneider,B
(2268)-Hajnal,Z (2350) Germany
2015]

11...Qxd5 12.0-0 f6 13.Re1 a5
14.Qh5

[14.Qf3 simplifies Qxf3 15.Nxf3 Bd7
16.Nd2]

14...b6 15.Nc4 Qf7 0.00/26

[15...Be6± -0.43/23]

16.Qxf7+= The position is equal.
16...Kxf7 17.b4 Be6

(Diagram)

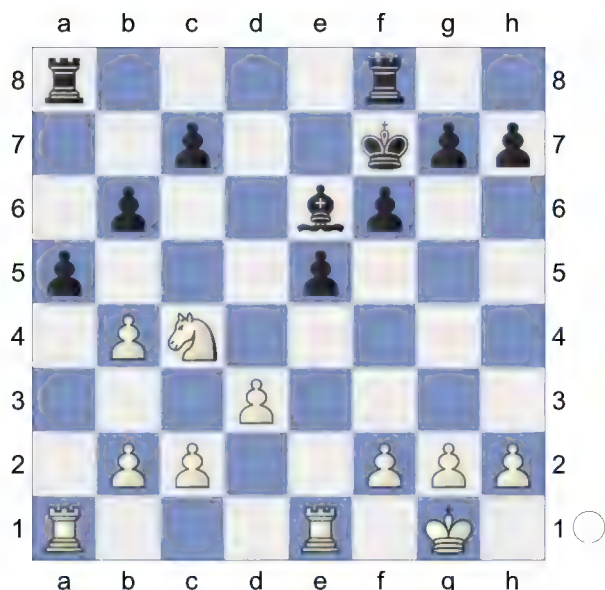
White must now prevent ...Bxc4.
18.bxa5 Bxc4 19.dxc4 Rxa5 20.Rxa5
bxa5 Endgame. KR-KR 21.Ra1 Rd8
22.Kf1 Rd2 23.Rxa5 Rxc2 24.Rc5
Rxb2 25.Rxc7+ Kg6 26.g3 Rc2 27.h4
h5 28.c5 Kf5 29.Rxg7 Rxc5 30.Rh7
Kg6 31.Ra7 Rc1+ 32.Kg2 Rc8 33.Kf1
Rc1+ 34.Kg2 Rc8 35.Kf1 Rc1+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06
(flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
½-½

C28

2690

2708



Qa5 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.exd5 Nd2
22.Ra1 Qb4 23.c3 (25) Chapter-
Games Chapter 11 Game 5]

9.a3 Bb7 10.Qd2 White is slightly
better. 10...e6 11.Bh6 0.17/25

[11.Rad1± 0.56/21]

11...Ne7 12.Bd3 c5 13.dxc5 dxc5
14.Qe3 -0.28/24

[14.Rfd1 0.19/25 might be stronger.]

14...Qc7 0.34/21

[14...Bxh6= -0.28/24 15.Qxh6 c4]

15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Nh2 -0.23/23

[Better is 16.b3 0.28/21]

16...h5 17.Rad1 Rad8

[17...c4!? 18.Be2□ e5=]

18.Be2? -1.85/23

[18.f4= 0.00/23 and White is okay.]

B08

2527

2693

□ Lagno, Kateryna

■ Dubov, Daniil

Titled Tuesday intern op 17th Sep Early ..
[Kitty Kat]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3
g6 5.Be2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 a6
0.66/23

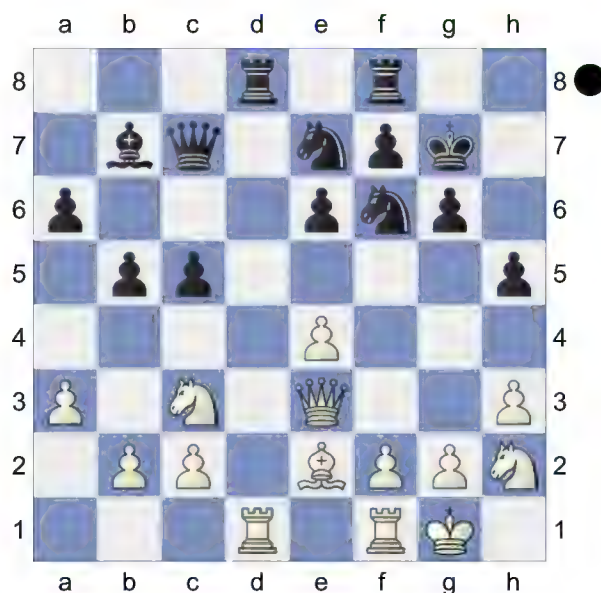
[7...e5= 0.30/22]

8.Be3

[8.a4 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Be3 Qe7
11.Qc1 Rd8 12.Rd1 Be6 13.Ng5
Nd4 14.Nxe6 Qxe6 15.Bd3 Rd7
16.Rd2 Rad8 17.Qf1 Nh5 18.Rad1
Nf4 19.Bc4 Qe7 20.Bxf4 exf4
21.Nd5 Qxe4 22.Re1 Qf5
0-1 (60) James, G (2311)-4.h3 ♔g7 5.
♘f3 de4 6. ♘e (2596) Great Britain
(Internet-playoff) 2020 (1)]

8...b5N

[8...e5 9.Qd2 exd4 10.Nxd4 Bd7
11.f4 Re8 12.Bf3 Na5 13.Bf2 Nc4
14.Qc1 c5 15.Nb3 Bc6 16.Re1 Nd7
17.Nd2 Ndb6 18.Nxc4 Nxc4 19.Rb1



18...b4+ 19.a4? -3.85/19

Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/
Black=0.19 (very precise)

[19.Na4 -1.67/19 was necessary.
Nxe4 20.axb4]

0-1

B00
 2690
 2572

□ Fedoseev, Vladimir1

■ Bernadskiy, Vitaliy

Titled Tuesday intern op 13th Feb Late b..
 [Kitty Kat]

**B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
 Nimzowitsch Defence**

**1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5
 4.Nc3 Qh5N**

[4...Qa5 5.Bb5 Bd7 (5...a6 6.Bxc6+
 bxc6 7.Qe2 Nf6 8.Ne5 e6 9.0-0
 Bd6 10.d4 0-0 11.Rd1 c5 12.Nc4
 Qb4 13.a3 Qb8 14.Bg5 Nd5 15.Ne4
 cxd4 16.Nexd6 cxd6 17.Rxd4 Ra7
 18.Qd3 f6 19.Bd2 Re7 20.Re1
 1-0 (37) 11. ♔d2 10022 (2700)-

Pedmanson,A (2615) Game 46 1897)

6.d4 (6.0-0 0-0-0 7.d4 a6 8.Ba4
 Qh5 9.Ne4 b5 10.Ng3 Qg6 11.Bb3
 Bg4 12.c3 h5 13.h3 h4 14.hxg4
 hxg3 15.fxg3 e5 16.Nh4 Qd6
 17.Rxf7 Nh6 18.Nf5 Nxf5 19.gxf5
 Be7 Gazola,V (2510)-12.♔h5 g6 13.

♔d5 ♔c7 (2390) 50/294 Badenweiler
 1990) 6...a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.0-0

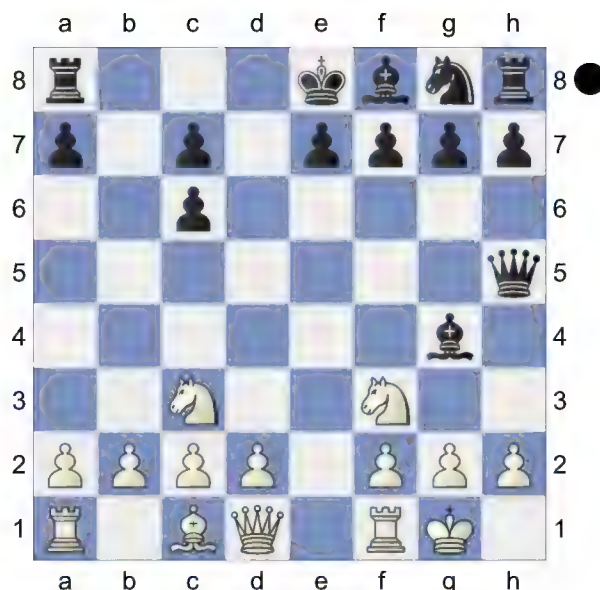
0-0-0 9.Ne5 Be8 10.Qf3
 11. Alekhines and Rare Lines-
 Alekhines and rare lines 2]

[4...Qd6 5.d4 Nf6 (5...a6 6.d5 Ne5
 7.Nxe5 Qxe5+ 8.Be2 Nf6 9.0-0
 KIA vs 1...e5 - and 1st move-KIA vs
 1...e5 - and 1st move) 6.Nb5 Qd8
 7.d5 Nb4 8.c4 e6 9.dxe6 Bxe6
 10.Bf4 Na6 11.a3 KIA vs 1...e5 - and
 1st move-KIA vs 1...e5 - and 1st
 move]

5.Bb5 Bg4 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.0-0
-0.72/24

[7.Qe2= 0.19/21]

(Diagram)



7...0-0-0 -0.09/23

[7...Nh6! ♣ -0.72/24 Hoping for ...Nf5.
 8.d3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Qxf3 10.gxf3 Nf5]

8.Re1 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Qxf3 10.gxf3 Nf6
Prevents Re4 11.d3 Nd5 12.Bd2 e6
13.a3 Be7 14.Ne4 h5 0.33/21

[14...g5= -0.13/19]

15.Kf1 h4 16.Ke2 Rh5 17.Rg1 g6
18.c4 Nb6 19.Bb4 c5 20.Bd2 Rf5
21.b4 Nd7! 22.f4 -0.64/20 Inhibits Ne5.

[22.Bc3= -0.21/23]

22...e5 ♣ 23.Rg4 -1.19/21

[White should play 23.bxc5 -0.73/20
 exf4 (23...Nxc5 24.Nxc5 Bxc5
 25.Rg5=) 24.d4]

23...Rh5 -0.04/20

[Better is 23...exf4 ♣ -1.19/21
 And now ...f3+ would win. 24.Rxf4
 Re8]

24.Nc3 c6 25.b5 exf4 26.Rxf4 Ne5
27.bxc6 -0.83/25

[27.Re4!= -0.01/24 cxb5 (27...Rxd3?
 28.f4+-) 28.Nxb5]

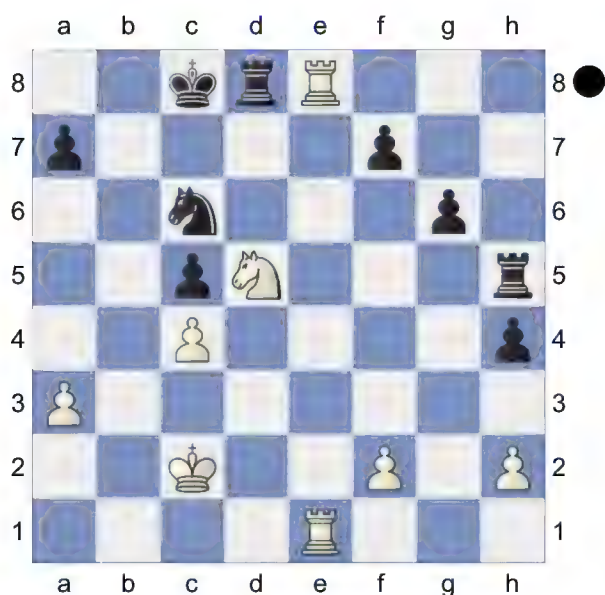
27...Bg5 -0.21/26

[27...Rxd3 ♣ -0.83/25 28.Rd1 Bg5]

28.Re4 -0.88/24

[28.Nd5!= -0.21/26 remains equal.
 Bxf4 29.Ne7+ Kc7 30.Ba5+ Kd6]

31.Bxd8 Nxc6 32.Nxc6 Kxc6 33.h3]
28...Bxd2
 [28...Nxd3? 29.Nd5 Bxd2
 (29...Nxf2? 30.Kxf2 Bxd2 31.Rb1+-)
 30.Kxd3+-]
 [28...Rxd3? 29.Bxg5 Rxd3 30.Rxe5
 Rxe5+ 31.Kxd3+-]
29.Kxd2 Rxd3+
 [29...Nxc6?! 30.Rb1=]
30.Kc2 Rd4 Black is more active.
31.Rae1 Nxc6
 [31...Nxc4 32.Re7 a6 (32...Nxa3+?
 33.Kc1+-) 33.Ra7+- (33.Rxf7 Re5=)]
32.Re8+? -3.11/23
 [32.f4! -0.66/22]
32...Rd8? -0.75/23
 [32...Kd7+- -3.11/23 has better
 winning chances. Threatens to win
 with ...Rf5! 33.Nb5 Rxc4+ 34.Kb3
 Rf4 35.Nxa7 Nd4+ (35...Nxa7?
 36.R1e7+ Kc6 37.Rxa7+-) 36.Kc3
 Rf3+ (36...Rxf2 37.R1e7+ Kd6
 38.Nc8+ Kc6 39.Na7+ Kb6 40.Rb8+
 Ka5 41.Ra8=) 37.R8e3 Rxe3+
 (37...Rxf2? 38.Kc4+-) 38.fxe3 Nf3]
33.Nd5 -2.14/21
 [33.f4 -0.75/23]



33...Rf5? -0.27/23
 [33...Rg5!+- -2.14/21 White must now
 prevent ...Rg2. 34.Nf4 Rg4]
34.f4= g5 ...Rxe8 would now be deadly.
35.Rxd8+ -1.61/19
 [35.Ne7+= -0.14/21 Nxe7 36.R8xe7]
35...Kxd8 Endgame. KRN-KRN
36.Rd1? -3.73/21
 [36.Re4 -1.28/22]
36...Nd4+-+ 37.Kd3 gxf4 38.Ke4 f3
39.Nf4
 [39.Rxd4? cxd4 (39...f2 40.Rd2=)
 40.Kxf5 f2+-]
39...Kc8? -1.21/17
 [39...f2? 40.Rf1+-]
 [39...Kc7+- -4.05/22 40.Nd3
 (40.Rxd4? cxd4 41.Kxf5 f2+-)
 40...Kd6 (40...f2? 41.Rf1 -)]
40.Nd3
 [40.Rxd4? cxd4 (40...Rxf4+?
 41.Kxf4 cxd4 42.Kxf3+-) 41.Kxf5
 f2+-]
40...f2 -0.14/24
 [40...Rg5 -1.21/26 aiming for ...
 Rg4+. 41.Nxc5 f2]
41.Rf1= Kc7
 [Don't go for 41...Rf3? 42.Nxc5
 (42.Nxf2? Kd7+-) 42...Rh3
 43.Kxd4+-]
42.Rxf2
 [42.Nxc5 with more complications.
 Ne2 43.Kxf5 Ng3+ 44.hxg3 hxg3
 45.Ke4]
42...Rxf2 43.Nxf2 KN-KN 43...Kb6
44.Nd3 Nc2 45.a4 -0.47/24
 [45.Ne5= -0.01/23 was preferable.]
45...Ka5 -0.04/24
 [45...Nb4 -0.47/24 46.Ne5 Ka5]
46.Nxc5 Kb4 47.Nd7 Kxa4
 Strongly threatening ...a5. **48.c5?**
-4.43/24
 [48.Ne5!= -0.23/24 and White has
 nothing to worry.]

48...Kb5+ 49.Kd5 Nb4+ 50.Kd6 a5
 ...a4 is the strong threat. **51.Ne5 f5?**
-1.71/20

[51...f6? 52.c6 Na6 (52...fxe5?
 too greedy. 53.c7+-) 53.Nf3-+]
 [51...a4 -7.70/22 52.Nxf7 a3]

52.Nd3? -12.38/22

[52.c6 -1.71/20 Na6 53.Nd7]

52...Nc6 53.Nf4 a4 54.Nd5 Nd4?
0.00/40

[54...a3+- -9.13/24 55.Nc3+ Kc4]

55.Nc3+!= The position is equal.

55...Kb4 56.Nxa4 Kxa4 57.Ke5 Nf3+
58.Kxf5 Kb5

[58...Nxb2? perishes. 59.c6 Nf1
 60.c7 Ne3+ 61.Kg5+-]

59.Kg4 Nxb2+ 60.Kxb4 Kxc5

And White is the lucky defender.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/
 Black=0.63

1/2-1/2

□ **Paravyan,David**

B00
2612

■ **Martinez Alcantara,Jose Eduardo**

Titled Tuesday intern op 23rd Jan Late bl..
[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3
g6 5.d5 Nb8 6.Bc4N

[6.h3 c6 7.a4 Bg7 8.Bc4 0-0 9.0-0
 b6 10.Qe2 Bb7 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.Nd4
 a6 13.Bb3 c5 14.Nf3 Nbd7 15.Bc4
 Ne8 16.Nh2 Ne5 17.Ba2 b5 18.f4
 Nd7 19.axb5 axb5 20.Nxb5 Qb6
 (27) 4.Nc3 g6 5.d5 with g3 or Bc4,C]

[6.Be3 Bg7 7.Qd2 0-0 8.h3 c6
 9.g4 b5 10.a3 Qa5 11.Rb1 b4
 12.axb4 Qxb4 13.Bd3 cxd5 14.g5
 Nh5 15.Nxd5 Qb7 16.Qb4 Qxb4+

17.Nxb4 Bacrot,E (2714)-Hera,I
(2620) 137/(40) France 2018]

[6.Be2 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3 e5
 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Nd4 Bd7 11.Re1
 Nc6 12.Nf3 Re8 13.Bc4 Be6
 14.Nd5 Qd7 15.c3 Bxd5 16.exd5
 Rxe1+ 17.Qxe1 Ne5 18.Nxe5 dxe5
(19) 10.Qc1 URS-ch Soviet Union
1983]

6...Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 White is
 slightly better. **8...Nbd7 9.Qe2 Bg7**
10.0-0 0-0 11.a4 c6 12.a5 Rc8 13.a6
b5 14.dxc6 bxc4 15.cxd7 Nxd7
16.Be3 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Qc7 1.40/19

[17...Rc6± 0.41/20]

18.Rfb1± Rb8 Prevents Rb7 **19.Rb4**
Rfc8 20.Bd4 0.93/20 White is much
 more active.

[Δ20.Qd1 1.39/19]

20...Qc6 1.61/22

[20...Nc5± 0.93/20]

21.Bxa7 1.11/20

[Better is 21.Qe3+- 1.61/22]

21...Ra8 2.49/20 Black cannot hold the
 game after this.

[21...Rxb4± 1.11/20 22.cxb4 Ra8]

22.Rb7+- e5 23.Kh2 Rf8 24.Be3 Rfc8
25.Qg4 Nf8 26.Qf3 Black is weak on
 the dark squares **26...Rc7 5.41/21**

[Δ26...Nd7 3.83/20 27.Bh6 Rc7
 28.Rxc7 Qxc7]

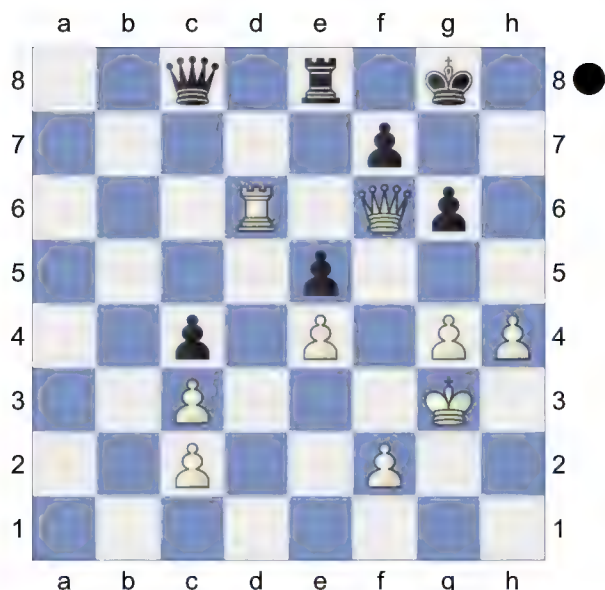
27.Rb6 Qd7 28.Rd1 Rc6 29.Rb7 Rc7
30.Rxc7 Qxc7 31.a7 Ne6 32.Qf6 h5
33.g4 h4 34.Qxh4 Nc5 35.Bxc5 Qxc5
Endgame. KQR-KQR 36.Qf6 Rxa7
37.Rxd6 Ra8 38.Kg2 Re8? 6.22/21

[38...Qa5 3.69/20 39.Rd7 Rf8]

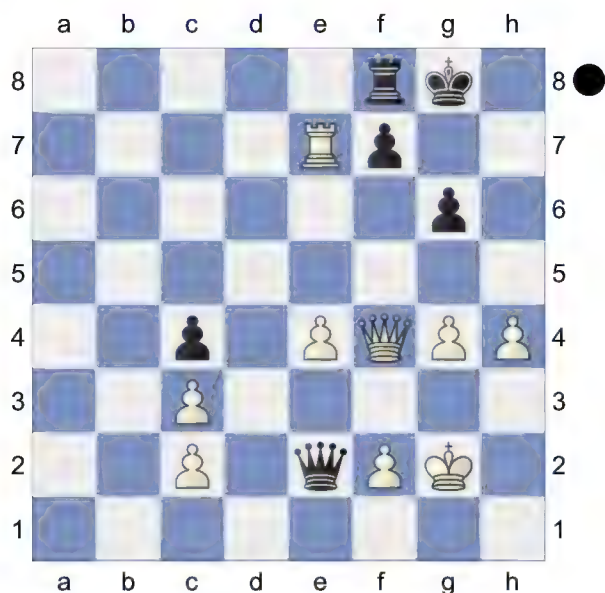
39.h4 Qc8 40.Kg3

(Diagram)

aiming for h5. **40...Qa8 41.Rd7 Rf8**
42.Qxe5 Qa1 43.Kg2 Against Qg1+.



Hoping for h5. 43...Qe1 44.Re7 Qe2 45.Qf4



Threatens to win with h5! 45...Qxc2 46.h5 Qd3? 8.91/18

[46...Qxc3 3.84/19 47.Qg5 Qg7 48.hxg6 Qxg6 49.Qxg6+ fxg6]
47.Qe5 h6 would kill now. 47...Qd1
48.Qg5 Qd3 49.hxg6 Qd6 50.gxf7+ Kh7 51.Re5 White is clearly winning.
51...Rxf7 52.Qh5+ Kg8 53.Rg5+ Kf8 54.Qh8+ Ke7 55.Re5+ Kd7 56.Qe8+ Kc7 57.Qxf7+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/

Black=0.58

1-0

B00

2551

□ Steinberg,Nitzan

■ Pragganandhaa,Rameshbabu

Titled Tuesday intern op 19th Dec Early ..

[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Bb5 Bd7 1.47/20

[5...a6± 0.63/21 6.Bxc6+ (6.Ba4 b5 7.Bb3 Bg7 8.h3 0-0 9.0-0 e6 10.a3 Bb7 11.Re1 Na5 12.Ba2 c5 13.d5 e5 14.b4 cxb4 15.axb4 Qc7 16.bxa5 Qxc3 17.Bd2 Qc7 18.c4 Nd7 19.Rc1 Nc5 20.Qe2 Rab8 1-0 (39) Kuntze,S-195. Poland ch-39 final 9698 1996) 6...bxc6]

6.0-0N 0.70/23

[Better is 6.e5± 1.47/20 dxe5 7.dxe5 Ng4 8.Qe2 Bg7 9.Bf4 Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #4]

6...Bg7± 7.Re1 Strongly threatening e5.

7...0-0 1.48/21

[♞7...a6 0.77/20]

8.h3 0.44/23

[8.e5± 1.48/21]

8...a6 9.Bf1 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Bg5 0.28/23

[11.Nd5± 0.76/21]

11...h6= 12.Bh4 Be6

(Diagram)

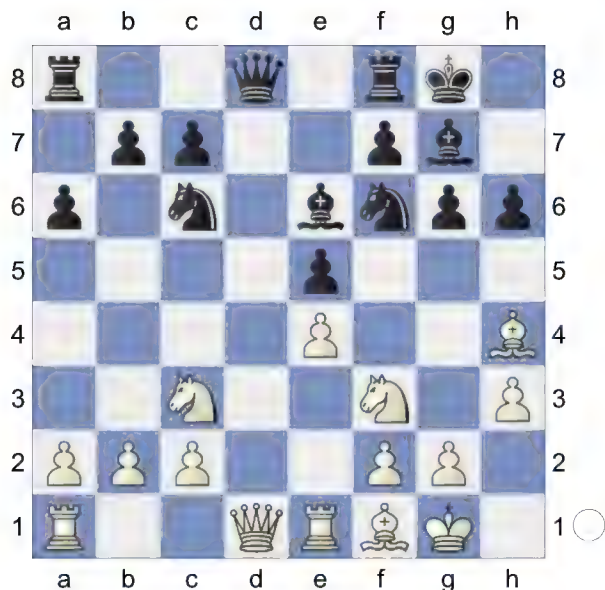
Against Nd5 13.Nd5 -0.61/24 g5!?

14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Bg3 Rad8

Wards off Qd3 16.Qc1 Rd7 -0.25/23

[16...Bxh3!± -0.79/23 aiming for ...

Bg4. 17.gxh3 Qxf3]



17.c3 Rfd8 18.Qe3 -0.66/24

[18.Be2= -0.22/22 was preferable.]

18...Qe7 19.Be2 Qf6 0.00/26

[Black should try 19...f6! -0.58/20]

20.b3 Qg6 21.Red1 Bf6 22.Rxd7
Rxd7 23.Rd1 Rxd1+ 24.Bxd1 h5
25.Be2 h4 26.Bh2 g4 27.hxg4 Bxg4
28.Ne1 Be6 29.Kf1 Bg5 30.Qd3 Qh6
31.Nf3 Bf4 32.Bxf4 Qxf4 33.Qe3
Qxe3 34.fxe3= Endgame. KBN-KBN
34...h3 35.g3

[35.gxh3 simplifies Bxh3+ 36.Kf2 f6
37.Bc4+]

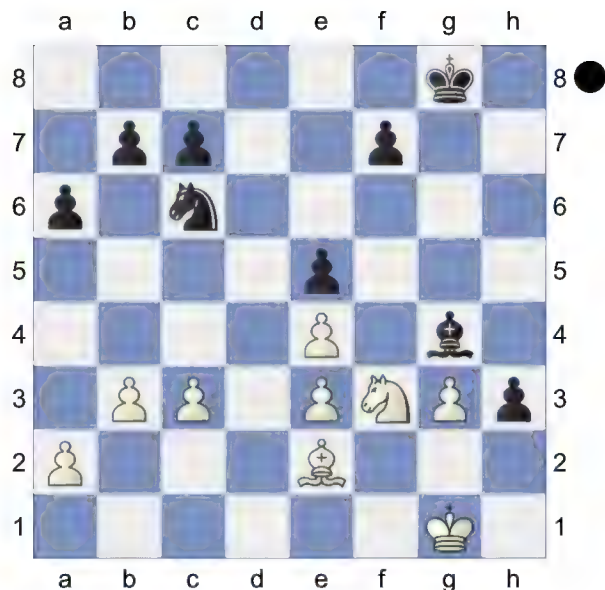
35...Bg4 36.Kg1

(Diagram)

f6 -0.01/24

[Black should play 36...Nd8! -0.78/28]

37.Kh2 The position is equal. 37...Kg7
38.Ng1! Be6 39.Nxh3 Bxh3 40.Kxh3
KB-KN 40...Na7 41.Kg4 Nc8 42.c4
Nd6 43.Kf3 c5 44.Bd3 Kg6 45.Kg4
a5 46.Kh4 Kh6 47.Kg4 Kg6 48.Kh4
b6 49.Kg4 Nc8 50.Kh4 Nd6 51.Kg4
Nf7 52.Kh4 Ng5 53.Kg4 Ne6 54.Kh4
Nd8 55.Kg4 Nc6 56.Kh4 Nb4 57.Bb1
Na6 58.Bd3 Nc7 59.Kg4 Ne8 60.Kh4



Ng7 61.Kg4 Ne6 62.Kh4 Ng5 63.Kg4
Nf7 64.Kh4 Nd8 65.Kg4 Nb7 66.Kh4
Nd6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very
precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)
½-½

C79
☐ Petrosyan,Manuel 2631
☒ Gareyev,Timur 2541
 Pavlodar op (8) 19.10.2024
 [Kitty Kat]

C79: Ruy Lopez: Steinitz-type lines with
3...a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 d6
1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 d6 6.Re1 Bd7 7.c3 g6
8.d4 Bg7 9.d5 **Na5N** An important
novelty. Eine beachtenswerte Neuerung.

[9...Ne7 10.Bxd7+ Nxd7

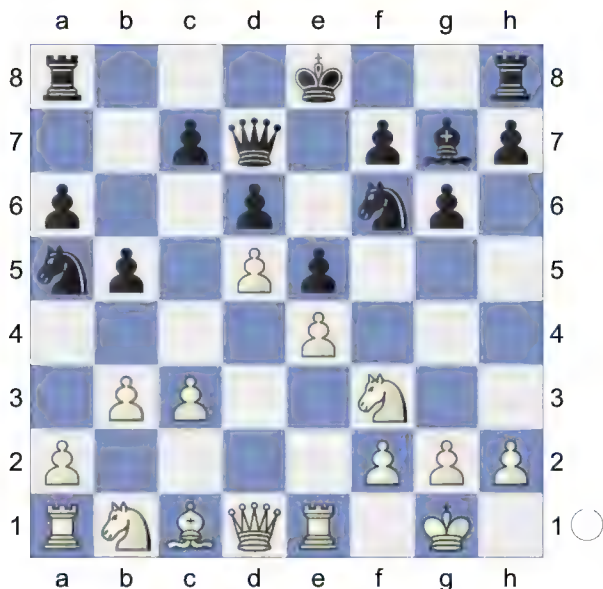
A) 11.Be3

A1) 11...h6 12.Nfd2 f5 13.f3 f4
(13...Bf6 14.Bf2 0-0 15.c4 Bg5
16.Nc3 b6 17.b4 a5
Quickstarter Guide A Ruy Lo-5.O-
O d6 6.Re1 #6) 14.Bf2 g5 15.c4
h5 16.Nc3 Bh6 17.b4 Rg8

18.Kh1 g4 19.Bg1 g3 20.h3
 3) Ruy Lopez Main Line: White-9.
 d5 Ne7 10.Bxd7 #6 | Informa;
A2) 11...Ng8 12.c4 Bh6 13.Nc3
 Bxe3 14.Rxe3 Ngf6 15.b4 0-0
 16.Rc1 Qe7 17.Nd2 a5 18.a3
 axb4 19.axb4 Nb6 20.h3 Rfc8
 4.c3 a6 5.Ba4 d6 6.d4 Bd7-7.0-0
 Bg7 8.Re1 Nf6 9.d5 2016;

B) 11.c4 h6 12.Nc3 f5 13.exf5
 -0.01/21 (13.Nd2± 0.45/22
 should be considered.) 13...gxf5=
 14.Nh4 Black must now prevent
 Nxf5! (14.Rb1 a5 15.a3 0-0
 16.b4 axb4 17.axb4 Ng6 18.Be3
 Nf6 19.c5 Ng4 20.c6 bxc6
 21.dxc6 e4 22.Nd4 Qh4 23.h3
 N4e5 24.Ne6 Nf3+ 25.gxf3 Qxh3
 26.Nd5 Nh4 27.Ndf4 Nxf3+
 28.Qxf3 Qxf3 0-1 (38) 7.♙c4... 9...
 ♙a5 10. ♙b5 (2371)-8.Nb5 (2496)
 Elenite 1993 (4)) 14...0-0 15.Re3
 Qe8 16.Rg3 f4 1-0 Zilka,S (2609)-
 McShane,L (2626) EU-chT 24th
 Budva 2023 (2.4)]

10.Bxd7+ Qxd7 11.b3 White is slightly
 better. 11...b5



12.c4! bxc4

[12...0-0 13.Nc3]



13.b4! Nb7 14.Nc3 a5 15.Rb1 0.28/24

[15.b5± 0.84/25]

15...axb4= 16.Rxb4 Na5 17.Nd2 c5

18.dxc6 -0.21/26

[18.Rb5± 0.52/25 0-0 19.Qe2]

18...Qxc6 19.Qa4 Qxa4 20.Rxa4 Kd7

21.Nf1 Nc6

[21...Nb7 simplifies 22.Rxc4 Rhc8

23.Rxc8 Rxc8 24.Bd2 Bh6]

22.Rxc4 Nd4 23.Bg5 Rhb8 24.Ne3

Ra3 Active counter play! 25.h3? -3.35/24

[25.Ned5= -0.08/24 and White stays

safe. Nxd5 26.Nxd5]

(Diagram)

This costs White the game. **25...Rxc3!-+**

Remove Defender, Decoy 26.Rxc3

Nxe4 27.Ra3 And now Ra7+ would win.

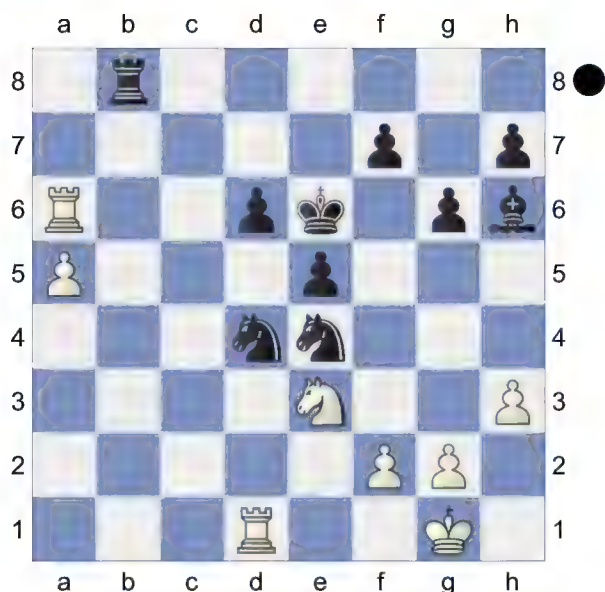
27...Nxg5 A dynamic duo of knights.

28.Rd1 Ke6 29.Ra6 Ne4 Black is

clearly winning. **30.a4 Bh6 ...Nxf2!**

would now be deadly. **31.a5**

(Diagram)



Nxf2! Decoy 32.Kxf2 Rb2+ 33.Kg3 Bxe3 -7.57/22

[33...Bf4+ -15.63/21 34.Kh4 Bxe3 35.Rxd4 exd4 (35...Bxd4? 36.Kg3+-) 36.Kg4 d3 (36...Rhg2+? 37.Kf3+-) 37.Kf3 d2 38.Ke2 Rb1 39.Kxe3 d1Q (39...d1R? 40.Ra8+-) 40.Rb6 Rc1 41.Rb2 Rc3+ 42.Kf2 Qd4+ 43.Kf1 Qf4+ (43...Rc1+ leads to mate. 44.Ke2 Qxb2+ 45.Kf3 Rc3+ 46.Kf4 h6 47.h4 Qb4#) 44.Ke2 Qe3+ 45.Kf1 Rc1#]
34.Kh2 Ra2 35.Ra8 f5 36.a6 f4

Hoping for ...f3. **37.a7 Kd5 38.Kh1 Ke4** Threatens to win with ...f3. **39.Rd8 Rxa7 40.Rxd6 Ra2**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.74/ Black=0.25 (precise)

0-1

B00

□ Smirnov, Anton

2600

■ Carlsen, Magnus

2864

Chennai Olympiad (AUS-NOR) 04.08.22

[D Fernandez, Kitty Kat]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6

[The other main move 4...Bg4 is also checked this month. Black's idea is to cripple the f3-knight and then fight for the d4-square (typically without much success.)]

5.h3 Bg7 6.Be3 0-0 7.Qd2 a6!? Magnus has used this kind of idea many times before, being ready to retreat in response to d5 but keeping in reserve both ...c6 and ...e6, in order to make that d5-pawn feel less comfortable.

[7...e5 is more commonly played, but it's possible that the simplicity of 8.dxe5 didn't appeal in the face of a 264-point rating advantage. (8.d5 Ne7 9.0-0-0 Nxe4 10.Nxe4 f5 11.g4 fxe4 12.Ng5 c6 13.dxc6 d5 14.cxb7 Bxb7 15.Ne6 Qc8 16.Nxg7 d4 17.Bh6 e3 18.Qb4 Rxf2 19.Bc4+ Bd5 20.Nf5 Nxf5 21.Bxd5+ Kh8 22.Qa4 Nxh6 (24) Meszaros, C (2342)-Mutter, V (2519) 103/275 Santa Clara 2008)]

8.Bd3

[After 8.d5 Na7 (8...Nb8 9.Bh6 b5 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.Bd3 c5 12.dxc6

Nxc6 Early Deviations-N,N 2015)
 9.a4 Repels Nb5 c6 one other thing
 the a7-knight does (which wouldn't be
 the case on b8) is it prepares ...b5 in
 some cases, for instance after the
 10.Be2 of Nisipeanu,L-Maghsoodloo,
 P Malmo 2019, b5! is playable.]

8...e5 9.dxe5N

[9.d5 Ne7! 10.g4 -0.30/20 ($\triangle$ 10.a4
 0.29/18) 10...c6 0.39/22
 (Black should play 10...Bd7= -0.30/20)
 11.dxc6± bxc6 12.0-0-0
 and in Movsesian,S-Carlsen,M Riadh
 2017 Black was not far from
 equalising, but Rb8 seems like the
 most solid way to play for it. (12...d5
 13.Nxe5 Nxe4 14.Bxe4 Bxe5
 15.Bg2 Rb8 16.Rhe1 Be6 17.Na4
 Qd6 18.c3 Rb5 19.f4 Bg7 20.Bf1
 Ra5 21.Qc2 c5 22.c4 Rb8 23.Bd2
 Rxa4 24.Qxa4 Bxb2+ 25.Kc2 Bd7
 26.Qb3 Rxb3 27.axb3
 Chapter-Games Chapter 10 Game 3)]

9...Nxe5 White has an edge.

[Also quite attractive is 9...dxe5
 followed by at some stage trying to
 play ...Nd4, but anyway in the
 absence of any ...Bg4 ideas it is hard
 to make any sort of reasonable claim
 that the c6-knight is better than the
 f3-knight.]

10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.0-0-0!?

Smirnov decides to sharpen matters and
 instigate pawn storms on opposite sides,
 because the rating differential means
 that a long game doesn't look that
 auspicious for him.

[White maintains the usual rather
 small and stable advantage with same-
 side castling: 11.0-0 Be6 12.a4 Qe7
 Alexieva, S-Tkachiev,V Mulhouse
 2011 13.a5±]

11...b5 12.g4 c6 13.f3 Be6 14.h4

Qa5 15.a3 -0.09/22

[15.h5 b4 16.Nb1! c5!∞]

[15.h5± 0.39/22]

15...Rfb8 0.43/24

[To maintain complete dynamic
 equality Black should probably have
 ruled out the opportunity from the next
 note first. 15...h5∞]

[15...h5= -0.09/22]

16.Bc5 -0.01/25

[16.h5 b4 17.Nb1! c5 18.hxg6 c4!
 19.gxh7+ (19.gxf7+!? Bxf7 20.Bxc4
 Bxc4 21.g5 is also suitably unclear;
 19.axb4 0.36/18 19.gxh7+ 0.81 Rxb4
 20.g5 Ne8! likewise, but in this case
 Black's paths to continue their attack
 are somewhat more obvious.)
 19...Kh8 20.Bh6 0.10/21 (20.axb4!±
 0.93/23 Rxb4 21.Be2) 20...Ne8□=
 21.axb4 Rxb4 22.Bf1 Rab8±
 Here, the engine opines that White is
 better but I would be extremely
 surprised if any human player can
 come up with the move that secures
 it...]

[16.h5± 0.43/24 deserves
 consideration.]

16...h5 Black is back on track and White will need to show considerable inventiveness to avoid shutting down their own kingside attack. 17.Bd6 -0.45/21

[17.Be7!? is one way to avoid closing
 the g- and h-files: Rb7 18.Bxf6 Bxf6
 19.gxh5∞]

[17.Kb1= 0.00/21 might be stronger.]

17...Rb7 18.Kb1

[18.Bxe5? b4 (18...hxg4 19.Qg5=)
 19.f4 bxa3+ (19...bxc3 20.Bxc3
 Nxc3 21.Bxa5±)]

18...Rd8 19.Bb4 Qc7 Black is more
 active. 20.Ne2 Rd7!? And now ...c5
 would win.

[By spending a tempo getting out of the skewer, Black risks negating their rather slight advantage. Instead there was the full-blooded 20...hxg4 21.Ba5 Rxd3! 22.cxd3 Qd6 when White's queenside light squares and the pawn offer more than enough compensation for the exchange.]

21.Bc5 hxg4! The stakes were about to be raised in any case, and Magnus shows himself equal to the occasion.

[21...a5 22.Ng3 b4! 23.a4! Prevents Rb5. b3! 24.gxh5 bxc2+ 25.Qxc2 Bb3 26.Qc3 Bxd1 27.Rxd1]

22.Ng3!

[22.h5!? Nxh5 23.fxg4 Bxg4 24.Rdg1 was not only viable but quite a strong way of continuing the attack in "Dragon" style.]

22...gxf3

[22...b4! 23.axb4 Black must now prevent h5. a5! 24.bxa5 Rb5! 25.Bb6! Rxb6 26.axb6 Qxb6 Hoping for ...Bf8. 27.h5 Ra7 with a very strong attack for Black (there is a rather cheap-looking mate threat that nevertheless demands immediate action.)]

23.h5 h6 would now be deadly.

23...Qd8!

[23...Ng4 24.hxg6 Qd8 (24...fxg6? 25.Qg5+-) 25.gxf7+ Rxf7 26.Nf5 Bxf5 27.exf5]

24.hxg6 fxg6 25.Qg5 Kf7 26.Nf5??
-2.08/23

(Diagram)

Nxe4! -0.73/19 Enough for a substantial advantage but not the absolute best move. **27.Nh6+ Bxh6 28.Qxh6 Bf5!**

[28...Nxc5 29.Bxg6+ (29.Qxg6+



Ke7±) 29...Kf6 30.Be8+ Ke7 31.Qg7+ (31.Bxd7 Qf8+-) 31...Kxe8 32.Rh8+]

29.Ka2 -1.99/21 Qg8 -1.48/19

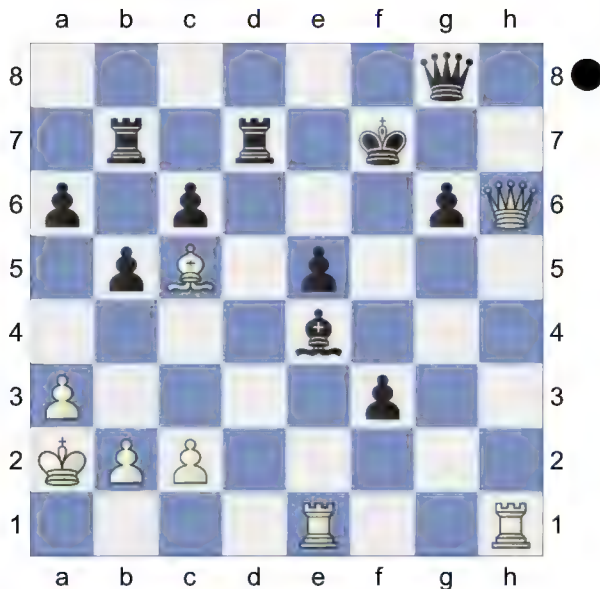
[Black has many playable moves, of which 29...Nf6 seems the most natural. If White doesn't manage to rustle something up within a very short time frame, the central pawns will just run wild.]

[29...Nxc5 30.Bxf5 Qf6 (30...Rxd1 31.Qxg6+ Ke7 32.Rh7+ Kf8 33.Rh8+ Ke7 34.Qg7+ Deflection, Double Attack Kd6 35.Rxd8+; 30...gxf5 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Qxf5+ Rf7 33.Rxd8+ Ke7 34.Qg5+ Rf6 35.Rh7+ Ke6 36.Qg4+ Rf5 37.Rh6+ Skewer Ke7 38.Qg8 Rf7 39.Qe8#) 31.Qh7+ (31.Bxd7 Rxd7 32.Qh7+ Ke8±) 31...Kf8 32.Bxd7 Rxd7 (32...Nxd7 33.Kb1+-) 33.Rxd7 Qe6+ 34.Rd5 Qxd5+ (34...cxd5? 35.Qh8+ Qg8 36.Qf6+ Ke8 37.Rh8+-) 35.b3±]

[29...Ke6+- -1.99/21 aiming for ...Nf6. 30.Qe3 Rxd3 (30...Nxc5? 31.Bxf5+ Kf6 32.Bxd7+-) 31.Rxd3 Rd7]

30.Bxe4 Bxe4 31.Rde1? -3.15/19

[31.Ka1♣ -1.39/20]



31...Kf6+!-+

[31...Bxc2 32.Qh2 f2 33.Bxf2= (33.Qxf2+ Bf5♣)]

32.b3 Rh7 Repels Qh4+

[32...Bxc2 33.Qh4+ (33.Re3 Qd5+) 33...g5 34.Qh6+ Bg6 35.Rxe5 Rd2+ (35...Kxe5 36.Qxg5+ Ke6 37.Re1+ Kf7 38.Qf4+ Kg7 39.Re7+ Bf7 40.Qe5+ Kh7 41.Qh2+ Kg6 42.Qg3+ Kh7 43.Qh3+ Kg7 44.Rxd7=) 36.Ka1=]

33.Qe3 Rxh1

[Not 33...Bxc2 34.Qxe5+ Kf7 35.Qe6+ Kg7 36.Bd4+ Kf8 37.Qe8#]

34.Rxh1 Qd5

[34...Bxc2 35.Qxf3+ Kg7 36.Bd6 Qxb3+ 37.Qxb3 Bxb3+ 38.Kxb3±]

35.Kb2 -3.81/21

[35.Rh2 -2.16/18 only move. Rd7 36.Bb4]

35...Rd7 Black is winning. 36.Rh8 Bf5

37.Rf8+ Rf7 Threatens to win with ...

Rxf8. 38.Re8 Qe4 39.Qd2 Strongly

threatening Qd8+. 39...Kg7

Black threatens ...Qxc2, taking play into

a completely winning rook ending.

40.Bf2

[40.Rxe5 Qxc2+ 41.Qxc2 Bxc2 42.Kxc2 f2 43.Bxf2 Rxf2+-+]

40...Qe2 Not only is Black three pawns up and about to trade queens, but also the time control has been reached. Anton had seen enough. But we must commend him for an excellent game in which he fully took the fight to his elite opponent!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.17 (very precise)

0-1

B00

□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime**

2732

■ **Hong,Andrew Z**

2542

Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Feb Late b..

[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.d5

Nb8 5.Bd3 Bg4N

[5...g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.h3 (7.c4 0-0

8.Nc3 Bg4 9.Be2 Nfd7 10.Bg5 a5

11.Nd2 Bxe2 12.Qxe2 c6 13.Kh1

a4 14.a3 Nc5 15.f4 Nbd7 16.Nf3

Qc7 17.Rad1 Rae8 18.f5 Qa5

19.Na2 Nf6 20.Nd2 Ncd7 21.Nf3

Nc5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (72) Kasimdzhanov,R

(2676)-Carlsen,M (2827) Douglas IoM

op 2017 (4)) 7...c6 8.c4 0-0 9.Nc3

a6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 b5 12.cxb5

axb5 13.dxc6 b4 14.Nd5 Nxc6

15.Bb6 Qd7 16.Bb5 Bb7 17.Ne5

Nxe5 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Bxd7 Nxd7

20.Bd4 (27) Amonatov,F (2240)-

Nijboer,F (2525) (ol) 73/205 Elista

1998 Bxe4 21.Re1 e5 22.Be3 Rfd8

23.Qxd6 Bc2 24.Qxb4 e4 25.Bd4

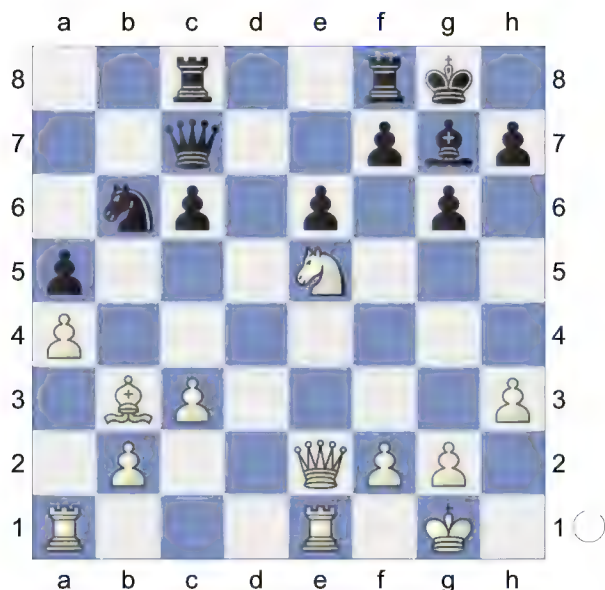
Ne5 26.Bxe5 Bxe5 27.Qc5
1-0 Lin,T (2649)-Observant6652
(2400) ACT Open Amsterdam NED
2004 (1)]

6.Nbd2 g6 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Nxf3
White is slightly better. 8...Bg7 9.0-0
0-0 10.c3 c6 11.Bc2 Nbd7 12.Re1 a5
13.a4 Qc7 14.Be3 Nb6 15.Bb3 Rac8
16.dxc6 0.24/22

[Better is 16.Rb1± 0.70/20]

16...bxc6= 17.e5 dxe5 18.Nxe5 Nfd5
Inhibits Bf4. 19.Bxb6 Nxb6 20.Qe2 e6
0.79/24

[20...Nd5= -0.19/24]



21.Nxf7!± Decoy. White is much more
active. 21...Rxf7

[21...Qxf7? 22.Bxe6+- (22.Qxe6?
Nd5-+; 22.Qxe6? Nd5-+)]

22.Bxe6 Pin 22...Rcf8 23.Rad1

[23.Bxf7+ Qxf7 24.Qc2 Qf5 25.Qxf5
Rxf5=]

23...Kh8 24.Bxf7 Qxf7 25.Rd6 Nxa4
26.Rxc6 0.13/26

[26.Red1!± 0.84/21]

26...Qb7 27.Rc4 Qb3

[27...Nxb2? too greedy. 28.Rb1+-]

28.Rc7 And now Qe7 would win.

28...Qxb2 0.51/24

[28...Qb6!= 0.12/27 29.Rd7 (29.Qe7
Qxf2+ 30.Kh2 Rg8=) 29...Qxb2]

29.Qxb2± Nxb2 30.Ree7 Rg8 31.Ra7
White has compensation. 31...a4

32.Reb7 0.35/26

[32.g3± 0.71/23]

32...Nd1 33.c4 Nc3 34.c5 Ne2+!

35.Kf1 Nd4 36.Rxa4 Hoping for Rxc7!

36...Rc8 1.80/21

[36...Ne6± 0.81/21]

37.Raa7? 0.03/27

[37.Rba7!+- 1.80/21]

37...Bf8

[37...Nc6 simplifies 38.Rxc7 Nxa7
39.Rxa7 Rxc5 40.Ke2 Rc2+]

38.Rxc7+ Kg8 39.Rxc7 0.24/23

[39.Rhd7± 0.62/25 might be stronger.
Bxc5 40.Ra4]

39...Rxc7!= 40.Rxc7 Ne6 41.Rc8
c6 is the strong threat.

[41.Rc6 Kf7 42.h4 Bxc5±]

41...Nxc5 42.h4 Kf7 43.g3 Ne6

44.Kg2 Bd6 45.Rc4 Kf6 46.f4 Kf5

47.Kf3 Kf6 1.00/27

[47...Be7= 0.15/23]

48.Kg4!± Be7 1.45/31

[Black should try 48...Bc5 0.75/29]

(Diagram)

49.Rc6! Kf7 50.h5 gxh5+ 51.Kxh5
Nd4 52.Ra6 Bb4 53.Kg4 Be1 54.Ra1
Bf2 3.16/29

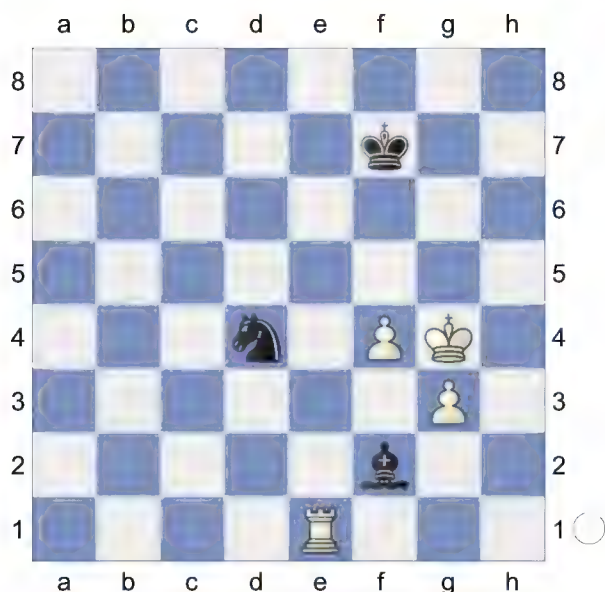
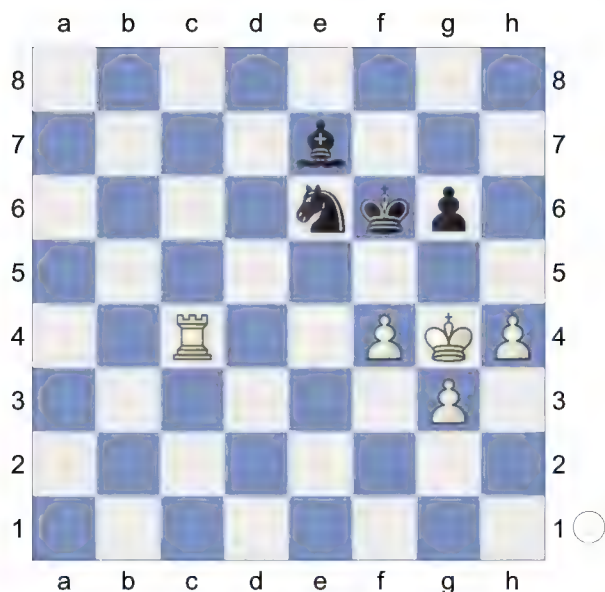
[54...Bb4± 1.45/29 was necessary.
55.Ra6 Kg7]

55.Rf1+- Be3 56.Re1 Bf2

(Diagram)

57.Re4 1.45/33

[57.Rf1!+- 2.45/33 Be3 58.Re1]



57...Kf6 58.Kh3 Strongly threatening Kg2. **58...Nc6?** 3.82/23 This costs Black the game.

[58...Ne6± 1.43/21 59.Ra4 Kg7]

59.g4 Bc5? 11.06/24

[59...Bd4 3.82/24 60.Kh4 Bb2]

60.Rc4 Nd4 61.Rxc5 Endgame. KR-KN **61...Ne6 62.Rc6** White mates. **62...Ke7**

(Diagram)

63.Rxe6+! Kxe6 KP-KP 64.Kh4 Kf6



65.Kh5 Kg7 66.Kg5 Kf7 67.f5 Kg7 68.f6+ Kf7 69.Kf5 Kf8 70.Kg6 Kg8 71.f7+ Kf8 72.g5 Ke7 73.Kg7

Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.24 (precise)

1-0

C78
 2637
 2708

□ Pichot,Alan

■ Dubov,Daniil

MrDodgy Online Inv Gp-A 3rd blitz (7)

[Kitty Kat]

C78: Ruy Lopez: Archangelsk and Möller Defences

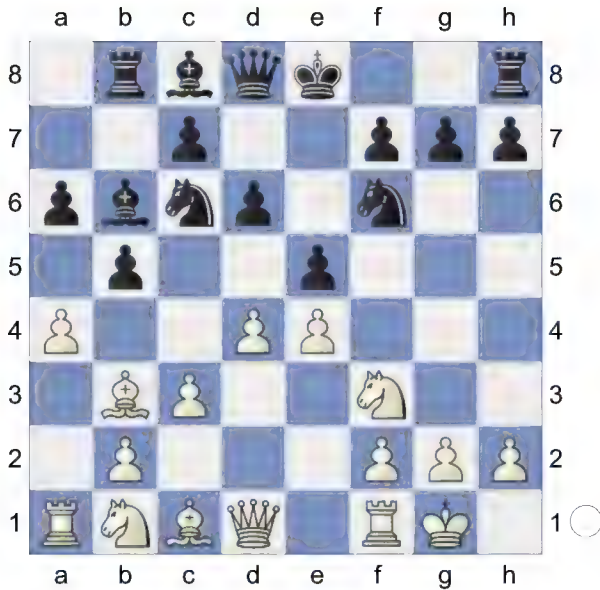
1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.c3 d6 8.d4 Bb6 9.a4 9.Be3 is the hot move. 9.Le3 ist der hippe Zug. 9...Rb8

(Diagram)

10.a5! Ba7 11.h3 0-0 12.Re1 White is slightly better. **12...Bb7 13.Be3! exd4**

[13...Nxe4?! 14.d5±]

14.cxd4 Ne7 0.61/20



[14...Nxe4? 15.d5+-]

[14...Nb4= 0.23/21 was preferable.]

15.d5N 0.15/22

[15.e5!± 0.61/20 Nfd5 16.Bg5 dxe5
17.dxe5 Re8 18.Nc3 (18.Nbd2 h6
19.Ne4 Nb4 20.Nd6 cxd6 21.exd6
hxc5 22.Nxc5 Bxf2+ 23.Kh1 Bxc2+
24.Kxg2 Ned5 25.Rxe8+ Qxe8
26.Bxd5 Nxd5 27.Qxd5 Bh4 28.Ne4
Rc8 29.d7 Rc2+ 30.Kf3 Qd8 31.b4
Be7 32.Rd1 Bxb4 1-0 (45) 9.♔c3 c5
10.♕d1 69014 (2272)-Radchenko,S
(2252) European Club Cup, Antalya
2017 (7.5)) 18...Nb4 19.Qe2 Qd3
20.Rad1 Qxe2 21.Rxe2 Cueto,J-N,N
Menorca op 2nd 2023 Bxf3 22.gxf3
Nec6 23.e6 fxe6 24.Bxe6+ Kh8
25.Re4 Nxa5 26.Bf4 Bb6 27.Rd7
Nac6 28.Nd5 Nd3 29.Bxc7 Bxc7
30.Nxc7 Nce5 31.Nxe8 Nxd7
32.Bxd7 Nc5 Bettalli,C-Aronin,P URS-
ch Soviet Union 1983]

**15...Bxe3= 16.Rxe3 c6 17.dxc6 Bxc6
0.57/22**

[17...Nxc6= -0.30/23 18.Qe2 Nxa5]

18.Nbd2 Ng6 19.Qe1N

[Predecessor: 19.Bc2 -0.15/21

19.Nd4 0.39 Re8 20.Re1 Bb7 21.b4

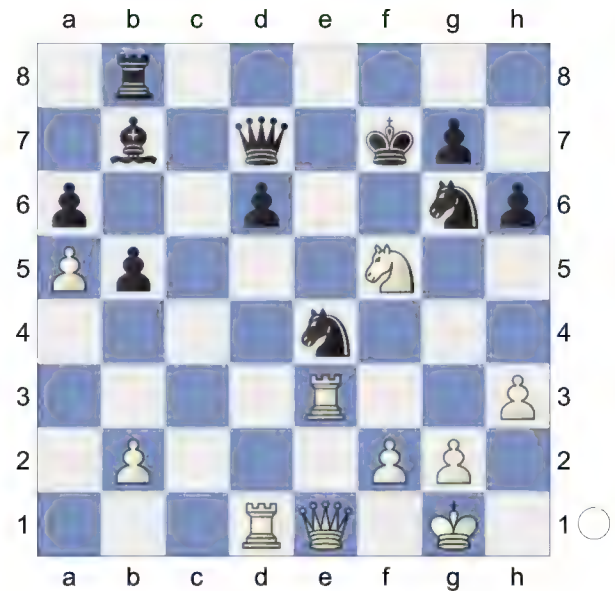
Nh5 22.Ra3 Nh4 23.Nf1 Qf6
24.Ng3 Rbd8 25.Rae3 ½-½ (44)
Harikrishna,P (2732)-Caruana,F
(2823) Wijk aan Zee 2021]

19...Re8 20.Ng5 Re7 21.Ndf3!
aiming for Rd1. 21...h6 22.Nd4 0.35/21
[22.Bxf7+± 0.85/21 Rxf7 23.Nxf7
Kxf7 24.Qb4]

**22...Bb7 23.Nxf7 Rxf7 24.Bxf7+ Kxf7
25.Nf5** And now Rd1 would win.

25...Qd7 26.Rd1 Nxe4 1.18/18

[Black should play 26...d5!± 0.38/19]



27.Nd4? -1.99/23

[27.g4!± 1.18/18 Ne5 28.Kf1
(28.Rxe4? Nf3+ 29.Kf1 Nxe1-+;
28.f4 Nc4±)]

27...Re8 -1.41/25

[Black should try 27...Nf6-+ -1.99/23
28.Ne2 Qc6]

28.Rc1 Re7 -1.33/25

[28...Nf4-+ -1.75/24 Threatens to win
with ...Nc5. 29.Qd1 Kg8]

**29.f3 Nf6 30.Rxe7+ Nxe7 31.Qd2
Kg8 32.Qc2 Nfd5 Prevents Qc7.**

33.Re1 Qd8 -0.97/18

[33...Nf4 -1.44/24 34.Kh2 Bd5]

34.b4 -1.93/22 Nxb4 35.Qe2 -3.10/22

[35.Qb2 -1.74/19 is a better defense.
Nec6 36.Nf5]

35...Nbd5+ 36.Qe6+ Kh7 37.Qf7
-3.97/23

[♖37.Nf5 -2.71/19 Nxf5 38.Qxf5+
Kg8 39.Kh1]

37...Qxa5 38.Re4 Qc3? -0.36/20

[38...Bc8+ -3.92/22 39.g4 Qd2]

39.Kh2? -3.85/22

[White must play 39.Ne6! ♜ -0.36/20
Kh8 40.Qe8+ Ng8 41.Nf8]

39...Ne3? 0.00/27

[39...Bc8+ -3.85/22 ...b4 would now
be deadly. 40.Ne2 Qf6 41.Qxf6
gxf6]

40.Rxe7

[40.Ne2!? Nf1+ ♚ 41.Kh1 Ng3+
42.Kh2 Nf1+ (42...Nxe2? 43.Rxe7
Bc8 44.Rxe2+-) 43.Kh1 Ng3+
44.Kh2 Nf1+= (44...Nxe2? 45.Rxe7
Bc6 46.Qf5+ Kg8 47.Rc7+-)]

40...Qxd4 41.Rxb7= -10.59/22

Endgame. KQR-KQN

[41.Re6= -0.15/18 Bc6 42.Qg6+ Kh8
43.Rxd6 Qe5+ 44.Kg1]

41...Qb2 -4.60/20

[♖41...Qe5+ -10.59/22 42.Kg1 Qb2
(42...Qg3 43.Qa2=) 43.Qxg7+ Qxg7
44.Rxg7+ Kxg7]

42.Kg3+ Qxg2+ 43.Kf4 Qg5+ 44.Ke4
Qe5+ 45.Kd3 Nd5 -1.16/21 Repels Re7

[45...Nc4+ -4.42/23 has better
winning chances. (-> ...Qe3+) 46.Re7
Qg5]

46.Kd2 -1.92/22

[46.Rb8 ♜ -1.16/21]

46...Qf4+? 0.00/30

[46...h5+ -1.92/22 ...Qb2+ is the
strong threat. 47.Kd1 Ne3+ 48.Ke2
Nf5+ 49.Kd1 Kh6]

47.Qxf4= Nxf4 KR-KN 48.h4 Ng6

49.h5 Nf4 50.Rb6 Nxh5 51.Rxd6 Nf4

52.Rxa6 h5 53.Ke3 Nd5+ 54.Kd4

White has compensation. 54...Nf6

55.Ke5 Kg6 56.Kf4 Kf7? 2.26/27

[56...b4= 0.01/39]

57.Ra7+? 0.03/21

[57.Kg5+- 2.26/27]

57...Kg6 58.Rb7 b4 59.Ke5 h4

60.Rxb4

[60.Kf4!?]

60...Kg5 61.Rb7 Nh5 62.Rb1 Ng3?

8.35/38

[62...g6= 0.00/27]

63.Rb4+- Kh5 64.Kf4? 0.00/48

[64.Rg4+- 6.44/33 Kh6 65.Rxh4+
Nh5 66.f4]

64...Ne2+ 65.Kf5 Ng3+ 66.Kf4

Strongly threatening Rb5+. 66...Ne2+

67.Kf5 g6+ 68.Kf6 Rb8 would kill now.

68...Nc3? 3.87/34

[68...h3= 0.00/30]



69.Rb8? 0.00/26

[69.Rb3!+- 3.87/34 Nd5+ 70.Ke5]

69...Nd5+= 70.Ke5

[70.Kf7!? Kg5 ♚ 71.Re8= (71.Rb5
h3=)]

70...Nf4? 28.11/22 71.Rh8+? 0.00/36

[Only move: 71.Kxf4+- 28.11/22 Kh6
72.Rh8+ Skewer Kg7 73.Rxh4 Kf6]

74.Rh2 g5+ 75.Kg4 Kg6 76.Rd2]
71...Kg5 72.Rf8 Nd3+
 [72...h3!? 73.Rh8□ (73.Rxf4?
 too greedy. h2-+) 73...Nh5=]
73.Ke4 Nf2+ 74.Ke3 Nh3 75.Ke2
Nf4+ 76.Rxf4?? -#17/14 Kxf4 KPP-KP
77.Kf2 g5 78.Kg2 g4? 0.00/25
 [78...Ke3 -#15/21 mates 79.Kh2 Kxf3
 80.Kh3 g4+ 81.Kxh4 Kf4 82.Kh5 g3
 83.Kg6 g2 84.Kf6 g1Q (84...g1R
 gets mated. 85.Ke7 Rd1 86.Ke6
 Rd4 87.Kf6 Re4 88.Kg6 Re6+
 89.Kg7 Kg5 90.Kf7 Re3 91.Kg7 Rf3
 92.Kh8 Kh6 93.Kg8 Kg6 94.Kh8
 Rf8#) 85.Ke6 Qc5 86.Kf6 Qe5+
 87.Kf7 Kg5 88.Kg8 Kf6 89.Kh7
 Qc7+ 90.Kh8 Qg7#]
79.Kg1? -#10/23
 [79.fxg4= 0.00/25 Kxg4 80.Kh2]
79...g3 Black mates. 80.Kf1 h3 81.Kg1
Kxf3 KP-KP 82.Kh1 Kf4 83.Kg1 Kg4
84.Kh1 Kg5 85.Kg1 Kh4 86.Kf1 g2+
87.Kg1 Kg4 88.Kh2 Kf4 89.Kg1 Kf3
90.Kh2 Kf2 91.Kxh3 g1Q 92.Kh4
Qg3+ -10.23/5 A wild game.
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/
 Black=0.71
 [Δ92...Qg6 -#2/67 93.Kh3 Qh5#]
 0-1

□ Neumann,J
 ■ Ferragut,Arnaldo
 Leningrad-ch31 (7)
 [Kitty Kat]

C78
2637
2708

25.11.2022

C78: Ruy Lopez: Archangelsk and
 Möller Defences

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.c3 d6
 8.d4 Bb6 9.a4 Rb8 10.a5 Ba7 11.h3
 0-0 12.Re1 White is slightly better.

12...Bb7 13.Be3 exd4

[13...Nxe4 14.d5±]

14.cxd4 Ne7

[14...Nxe4? 15.d5+-]

15.d5N 0.03/20

[15.e5± 0.50/20 Nfd5 16.Bg5 dxe5
 17.dxe5 Re8 18.Nc3 (18.Nbd2 h6
 19.Ne4 Nb4 20.Nd6 cxd6 21.exd6
 hxg5 22.Nxg5 Bxf2+ 23.Kh1 Bxg2+
 24.Kxg2 Ned5 25.Rxe8+ Qxe8
 26.Bxd5 Nxd5 27.Qxd5 Bh4 28.Ne4
 Rc8 29.d7 Rc2+ 30.Kf3 Qd8 31.b4
 Be7 32.Rd1 Bxb4 1-0 (45) 9.♙c3 c5
 10.♚d1 69014 (2272)-Radchenko,S
 (2252) European Club Cup, Antalya
 2017 (7.5)) 18...Nb4 19.Qe2 Qd3
 20.Rad1 Qxe2 21.Rxe2 Cueto,J-N,N
 Menorca op 2nd 2023 Bxf3 22.gxf3
 Nec6 23.e6 fxe6 24.Bxe6+ Kh8
 25.Re4 Nxa5 26.Bf4 Bb6 27.Rd7
 Nac6 28.Nd5 Nd3 29.Bxc7 Bxc7
 30.Nxc7 Nce5 31.Nxe8 Nxd7
 32.Bxd7 Nc5 Bettalli,C-Aronin,P URS-
 ch Soviet Union 1983]

15...Bxe3= 16.Rxe3 c6 17.dxc6
-0.24/24
 [Δ17.Nc3 0.14/24]
17...Bxc6 0.51/22
 [17...Nxc6= -0.24/24 18.Nc3 Nxa5]
18.Nbd2 Ng6 19.Qe1
 [19.Bc2 -0.18/22 19.Nd4 0.33 Re8
 20.Re1 Bb7 21.b4 Nh5 22.Ra3
 Nh4 23.Nf1 Qf6 24.Ng3 Rbd8
 25.Rae3]

19...Re8! 20.Ng5 Re7 0.66/20
 [20...d5= 0.28/23 deserves
 consideration.]

21.Ndf3± aiming for Rd1. 21...h6 1.02/23
 [21...Be8± 0.62/22 was preferable.]

22.Nd4 0.51/21
 [22.Nxf7± 1.02/23 Rxf7 23.Bxf7+
 Kxf7 24.Rd1]

22...Bb7 23.Nxf7 Rxf7 24.Bxf7+

[24.Rg3 simplifies Bxe4 25.f3 Bd5
26.Bxd5 Nxd5 27.Rxg6 Qd7
28.Re6]

24...Kxf7 25.Nf5 0.00/20

[25.Rd1± 0.36/20]

25...Qd7 0.43/19

[25...Ne7= 0.00/20
is more appropriate.]

26.Rd1! Nxe4 0.92/21

[26...d5!± 0.39/22]

27.Nd4? -1.83/22

[27.g4!± 0.92/21 is forced if you want
to stay better. Ne5 28.Qe2
(28.Rxe4? Nf3+ 29.Kf1 Nxe1-;
28.f4 Nc4±)]

27...Re8 -1.36/21

[27...Nf6-+ -1.83/22 28.Ne2 Kg8]

28.Rc1 -1.73/23

[28.Nb3± -1.36/21]

28...Re7 -1.32/25

[28...Re5-+ -1.73/23 ...Nf4 is the
strong threat. 29.f3 Nc5]

**29.f3 Nf6 30.Rxe7+ Nxe7 31.Qd2
Kg8 32.Qc2 Nfd5 Wards off Qc7**

33.Re1 Qd8 -1.14/18

[♠33...Bc8 -1.60/19 34.Kh2 Qe8]

34.b4 -2.16/21 Nxb4-+ 35.Qe2 -3.09/22

[35.Qb2 -1.89/20 might work better.
Nec6 36.Nf5]

**35...Nbd5 36.Qe6+ Kh7 37.Qf7
-3.94/23**

[♠37.Nf5 -2.48/19 Nxf5 38.Qxf5+
Kh8 39.Qe6]

37...Qxa5 38.Re4 Qc3? -0.23/20

[38...Bc8-+ -3.87/21 39.f4 Qc3]

39.Kh2? -3.84/22

[39.Ne6!= -0.23/20 and White is okay.
Kh8 40.Qe8+ Ng8 41.Nf8]

39...Ne3? 0.00/26

[Better is 39...Bc8-+ -3.84/22
Strongly threatening ...b4. 40.f4 Qd3]

40.Rxe7 -0.66/24

[40.Ne2= 0.00/26 Nf1+ 41.Kh1

Ng3+ 42.Kh2 Nf1+ (42...Nxe2?
43.Rxe7 Bc6 44.Qf5+ Kg8
45.Rc7+-) 43.Kh1 Ng3+ 44.Kh2
Nf1+ (44...Nxe2? 45.Rxe7 Bc8
46.Rxe2+-)]

40...Qxd4± 41.Rxb7= -10.12/22

Endgame. KQR-KQN

[41.Re6± -0.35/19 Bd5 42.Qg6+ Kh8
43.Re8+ (43.Qe8+ Kh7=) 43...Bg8
44.Qf7 Nf1+ 45.Kh1 Ng3+ 46.Kh2
Nf1+ 47.Kh1 Ng3+ 48.Kh2 Nf1+]

41...Qb2 -4.60/19

[♠41...Qe5+ -10.12/22 42.Kh1 Qb2
(42...Qg3 43.Qa2=) 43.Qxg7+ Qxg7
44.Rxg7+ Kxg7]

**42.Kg3-+ Qxg2+ 43.Kf4 Qg5+ 44.Ke4
Qe5+ 45.Kd3 Nd5 -1.29/21 Repels Re7**

[45...Nc4-+ -4.73/20 (-> ...Qe3+)
46.Re7 Qg5]

46.Kd2 -2.06/22

[46.Rb8± -1.29/21 was called for.]

46...Qf4+? 0.00/30

[Black should play 46...h5-+ -2.06/22
...a5 would now be deadly. 47.h4 a5]

47.Qxf4= Nxf4 KR-KN 48.h4 Ng6

49.h5 Nf4 50.Rb6 Nxb5 51.Rxd6 Nf4

52.Rxa6 h5 53.Ke3 Nd5+ 54.Kd4 Nf6

55.Ke5 Kg6 56.Kf4 Kf7? 2.44/27

[56...h4= 0.00/37 and Black stays
safe.]

57.Ra7+? 0.01/21

[Only move: 57.Kg5+- 2.44/27]

57...Kg6 58.Rb7 b4 59.Ke5 h4

60.Rxb4 Kg5 61.Rb7 Nh5 62.Rb1

Ng3? 7.24/35

[62...g6= 0.00/30]

63.Rb4+- Kh5 64.Kf4? 0.00/46

[64.Rg4+- 6.06/33 Kh6 65.Rxh4+
Nh5 66.f4]

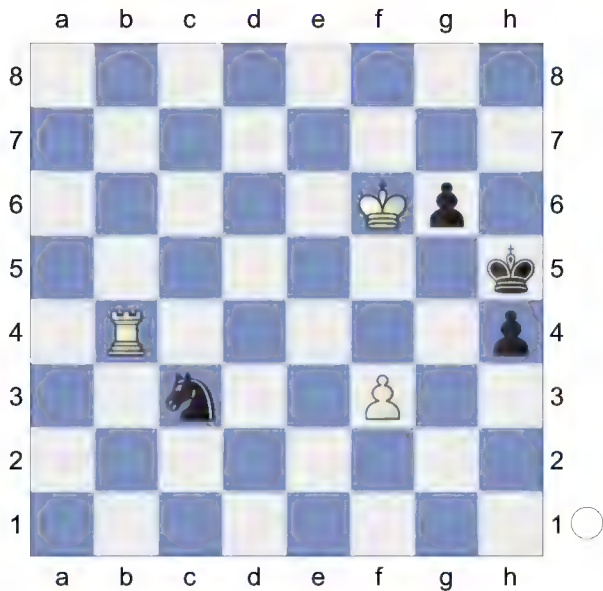
64...Ne2+ 65.Kf5 Ng3+ 66.Kf4

Hoping for Rb5+. **66...Ne2+ 67.Kf5 g6+**

68.Kf6 White wants to mate with Rb8.

68...Nc3? 4.36/35

[68...h3= 0.00/32]



69.Rb8? 0.01/25

[White has to play 69.Rb3!+- 4.36/35]

69...Nd5+= 70.Ke5 Nf4? 28.11/25

71.Rh8+? 0.00/39

[71.Kxf4+- 28.11/25 Kh6 72.Rh8+ Skewer Kg7 73.Rxh4 Kf6 74.Rh2 g5+ 75.Kg4 Kg6 76.Rd2]

71...Kg5 72.Rf8 Nd3+

[72...h3!? 73.Rh8□ (73.Rxf4? h2-+) 73...Nh5=]

73.Ke4 Nf2+ 74.Ke3 Nh3 75.Ke2 Nf4+

(Diagram)

76.Rxf4?? -#63/13 **Kxf4 KPP-KP**

77.Kf2 g5 -75.61/27

[Δ77...h3 -#16/25 78.Kg1 Kg3 (78...Kxf3 79.Kh2 Kg4 80.Kg1 Kg3 81.Kh1 g5 82.Kg1 Kf3 83.Kf1 h2 84.Ke1 Ke3 85.Kd1 h1Q+ 86.Kc2 Kd4 87.Kb2 Qd1 88.Ka3 Kc3 89.Ka2 Qc2+ 90.Ka3 Qb3#) 79.Kf1 Kxf3 (79...h2 80.Ke2 h1Q 81.Kd3 Qxf3+ 82.Kc4 Qc6+ 83.Kb3 Kf4 84.Ka3 Qb5 85.Ka2 Ke4 86.Ka1



Kd3 87.Ka2 Kc3 88.Ka3 Qb3#)

80.Kg1 g5 81.Kf1 h2 82.Ke1 Ke3

(82...h1R+ is a self mate. 83.Kd2 g4

84.Kc3 g3 85.Kd3 g2 86.Kd4 g1Q+

87.Kd5 Qb6 88.Kc4 Rc1+ 89.Kd5

Rc5+ 90.Kd4 Qd6#) **83.Kd1 h1Q+**

(83...h1R+ 84.Kc2 g4 85.Kc3 g3

86.Kb4 g2 87.Kc5 g1Q 88.Kd6

Qg6+ 89.Kc5 Rh5+ 90.Kc4 Qb6

91.Kc3 Rc5#) **84.Kc2 Kd4 85.Kb2**

Kd3 86.Ka3 Kc3 87.Ka4 Qd5

88.Ka3 Qb3#]

78.Kg2 g4? 0.00/26

[78...Ke3 -#15/22 mates 79.Kh2 Kxf3

80.Kh3 g4+ 81.Kxh4 Kf4 82.Kh5 g3

83.Kg6 g2 84.Kf6 g1Q (84...g1R

85.Ke7 Rd1 86.Ke6 Rd4 87.Kf6

Re4 88.Kg6 Re6+ 89.Kg7 Kg5

90.Kf7 Re4 91.Kg7 Rf4 92.Kh8 Kh6

93.Kg8 Kg6 94.Kh8 Rf8#) **85.Ke6**

Qd4 86.Kf7 Qe3 87.Kf8 Kf5 88.Kg8

Qe7 89.Kh8 Kg6 90.Kg8 Qg7#]

79.Kg1? -#10/23

[79.fxg4= 0.00/26 Kxg4 80.Kh2]

79...g3 80.Kf1 h3 81.Kg1 Kxf3

KP-KP 82.Kh1 Kf4 83.Kg1 Kg4

84.Kh1 Kg5 -14.59/5

[Δ84...Kf3 -#6/24 85.Kg1 g2

(85...h2+ leads to mate. 86.Kh1 g2+ 87.Kxh2 Kf2 88.Kh3 g1Q 89.Kh4 Qg6 90.Kh3 Qh5#) 86.Kh2 Kf2 87.Kxh3 g1Q (87...g1R gets mated. 88.Kh4 Kf3 89.Kh5 Kf4 90.Kh6 Kf5 91.Kh7 Kf6 92.Kh8 Kf7 93.Kh7 Rh1#) 88.Kh4 Qg6 89.Kh3 Qh5#]

85.Kg1-+ Kh4 Black mates. 86.Kf1 g2+ 87.Kg1 Kg4 88.Kh2 Kf4 89.Kg1 Kf3 90.Kh2 Kf2 91.Kxh3 g1Q 92.Kh4 Qg3+ -10.23/5 Both players deserved the win here.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.71

[♠92...Qg6 -#2/66 93.Kh3 Qh5#]
0-1

□ **Iljiushenok,Ilia** **C25 2558**
■ **Anton Guijarro,David** **2671**
Titled Tuesday intern op 12th Mar Late b..
[Kitty Kat]

C25: Vienna Game: Alternatives to 2... Nf6

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nc3 e5

[2...d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nge2 g6 5.Be3 Ng4 6.Bg5 Bg7 7.f3 h6 8.Bc1 Nf6 9.Be3 e5 10.Qd2 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 0-0 13.0-0-0 Be6 14.g4 Nd7 15.Be3 Qh4 16.g5 hxg5 17.Bxg5 0-1 (48) 5.♗f1 (2270)-Zelic,Z (2470) ch-Kaskady SVK 2002 (9)]

[2...e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bd3 Bb4 6.0-0 Bxc3 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.bxc3 Nxc3 9.Qd2 Nd5 10.c4 Nde7 11.Bb2 Chapter-1. e4 b6/Nf6/Nc6 2010]

3.Bc4 g6N

[3...Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.f4 (5.Be3 Bb6 6.Bxb6 axb6 7.Nge2 d6 8.Qd2 Ne7 9.f4 Bd7 10.0-0 c5 11.fxe5 dxe5

12.Qg5 Ng6 13.Nd5 b5 14.Bb3 Rc8 15.c3 c4 16.dxc4 bxc4 17.Bc2 Nxd5 18.Qxd8+ Rxd8 19.exd5 Bg4 1-0 (39) 8... ♔a5-8. ♕d3 ♖b7 9.a3 b4 64604 USSR 21/513 1976 (7)) 5...exf4 (5...d6 6.Nf3 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.Na4 Bb6 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bd2 Qd6 13.Bc3 Nd7 14.a3 Nd4 15.Qd2 Nxf3+ 16.Rxf3 Rxf3 17.gxf3 Rf8 18.Rf1 c5 19.Qg5 h6 20.Qg3 ½-½ (53) g6!? Ideas (2475)-7.0-0 e6 8.♕g5 55055 (2252) Jermuk 107/162 2009 (1)) 6.Bxf4 d6 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.Qd2 Qe7 9.0-0-0 0-0-0 10.Bg5 Be6 11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.Bxd5 h6 13.Bxc6 hxg5 14.Ba4 g4 15.Ng5 Nd5 16.Rde1 Ne3 17.Rxe3 Bxe3 18.Qxe3 1-0 (34) 3.♗d2 e5 4.♗gf3 ♕d6 5.g (2351)-The Italian Four Knights Game RUS-ch sf Novosibirsk 1998 (7)]

4.d3 Bg7 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 exf4!? **0.57/20** Exploring less charted territory. Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.

[6...Na5!= **0.21/20**]

7.Bxf4± Na5 8.Bb3 White is better.
8...Nxb3 9.axb3 Ne7N

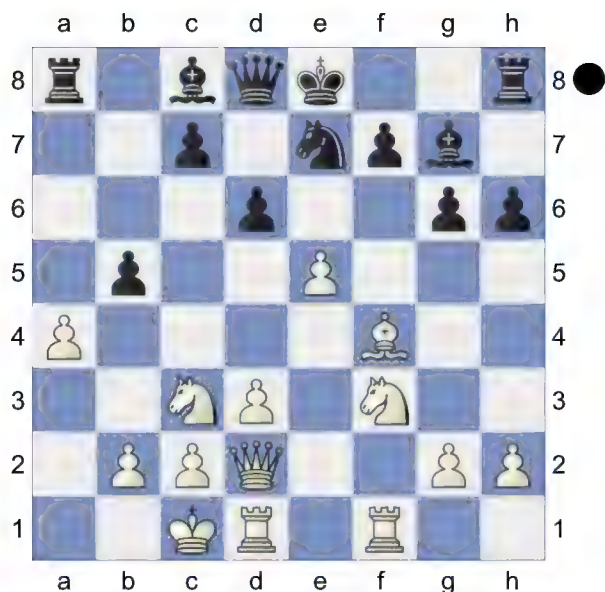
[Vorgänger: 9...Nf6 10.0-0 0-0 11.Qd2 Re8 **1.24/23** (Better is 11...d5 **0.72/20**) 12.Bg5 Qd7 13.Bxf6 **0.76/20** (♠13.h3 **1.45/19**) 13...Bxf6± 14.Nd5 Bg7 15.Ng5 Rf8 ½-½ Leiser, S-Rohel,M Oberliga Wuerttemberg 8990 1989]

10.Qd2 h6 11.0-0-0 a5 12.Rhf1 a4 0.70/20 13.bxa4± b5! 14.e5? -1.10/20

[14.Nxb5?! Rxa4 15.c4 Bd7=]

[14.axb5± **0.89/20** is necessary to keep the advantage. Qf2 would now be deadly. g5 15.Be3]

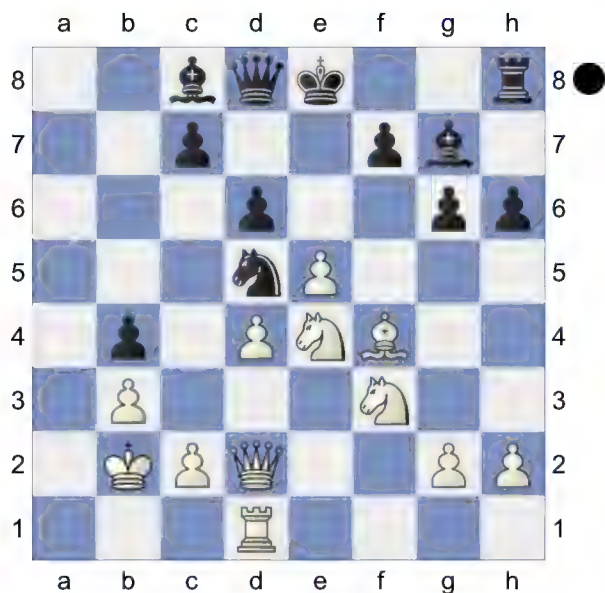
(Diagram)



14...b4! ♣ Deflection 15.Ne4 And now b3 would win. **15...Rxa4 16.b3? -3.10/19**
Now White is beyond hope.

[16.Qe1 ♣ -1.13/18 0-0 17.exd6 cxd6 18.Nxd6]

16...Ra1+-+ 17.Kb2 Rxd1 18.Rxd1 Nd5 19.d4



g5! 20.Bg3 Bf5 21.Re1 -3.81/21

[21.c4 -2.03/20 Bxe4 22.cxd5]

21...0-0 -1.86/18

[♠21...Bxe4 -3.81/21 22.exd6 (22.Rxe4? too greedy. Qa8+-) 22...Qa8 (22...f5? 23.dxc7 Qa8

24.Ra1+-) 23.Rxe4+ Kd7 24.Re7+ (24.Ne5+? Bxe5 25.c4 bxc3+-+) 24...Nxe7 25.Qxb4 Nd5 Deflection]

22.exd6? -4.57/20

[22.Qd3 -1.86/18 is a better defense.]

22...Bxe4 Remove Defender 23.Rxe4 -8.33/20

[♠23.dxc7 -4.52/16 Qa8 (23...Qe7? 24.h4+-) 24.Ra1 (24.Rxe4 is a self mate. Qa3+ 25.Kb1 Nc3+)]

23...Qa8 24.Re1 Qa3+

Weighted Error Value: White=1.43/ Black=0.25 (precise)

0-1

B08

□ **Esipenko,Andrey**

2704

■ **Hong,Andrew Z**

2542

Titled Tuesday intern op 27th Feb Late b.. [Kitty Kat]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.h3 Bg7 6.Be2 0-0 7.0-0 e5

[7...a6 8.a4 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Be3 Qe7 11.Qc1 Rd8 12.Rd1 Be6 13.Ng5 Nd4 14.Nxe6 Qxe6 15.Bd3 Rd7 16.Rd2 Rad8 17.Qf1 Nh5 18.Rad1 Nf4 19.Bc4 Qe7 20.Bxf4 exf4 21.Nd5 Qxe4 22.Re1 0-1 (60) Eden,J (2311)-Bauer,C (2596) Paris Rapid op 2023 (1)]

8.dxe5 8.dxe5 is better than 8.Be3.

8.dxe5 ist besser als 8.Le3. 8...Nxe5

9.Be3N

[9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Qxd8 Rxd8 11.Bg5 c6 12.Rfd1 Be6 13.a4 h6 (13...a5 14.Kf1 h6 15.Be3 Bf8 16.Rxd8 Rxd8 17.Bb6 Ra8 18.f3 Nd7 19.Be3 h5 20.g4 hxg4 21.hxg4 Bc5 22.Nd1 Kg7 23.Bxc5 Nxc5 24.Ne3 Rh8

25.Kg2 Kf6 26.b3 Rd8 27.Kf2 Kg5
 28.Rh1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (31) Secer,A (2350)-
 Soysal,S (2394) TUR-chT 1st League
 2023 (3.13) Kf4 29.Ng2+ $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (31)
 Striebich,R (2350)-Van Woerden,H
 (2394) (ol) 86/216 Bled 2002 (3.13))
 14.Be3 Rxd1+ 15.Rxd1 Bf8 16.f3
 Kg7 17.a5 Bb4 18.Ra1 Nd7 19.Nd1
 f5 20.c3 Bc5 21.b4 Bxe3+ 22.Nxe3
 fxe4 23.fxe4 Nf6 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (44) Vrencian,
 L (2226)-Secheres,A (2365) ROM-chT
 Rapid 2022 (7.11)]

9...Bd7 10.Re1N

[Vorgänger: 10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.Bg5
 0.21/23 (11.Bc4± 0.62/23
 is superior.) 11...h6 12.Bxf6 -0.22/19
 (White should try 12.Be3± 0.31/20)
 12...Bxf6= 13.Nd5 Nxf6+ is the strong
 threat. Bg7 14.Bg4 Bb5 And now ...
 c6! would win. 15.Be2 Be8 16.Qd3
 0-1 Turski,B (2114)-Pultinevicius,P
 (2546) EU-ch Blitz Katowice 2021 (4)]

10...Bc6 11.Nd2 -0.15/22

[11.Nxe5± 0.44/21 dxe5 12.Bc4]

11...Re8 The position is equal. 12.a4 d5
 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Qxd5 15.Bf1
 Rad8 16.Qb1 a5 17.Qa2 Qxa2
 -0.26/17

[17...Qd7!± -0.63/20]

18.Rxa2= Nd7 19.Bb5 -1.25/20

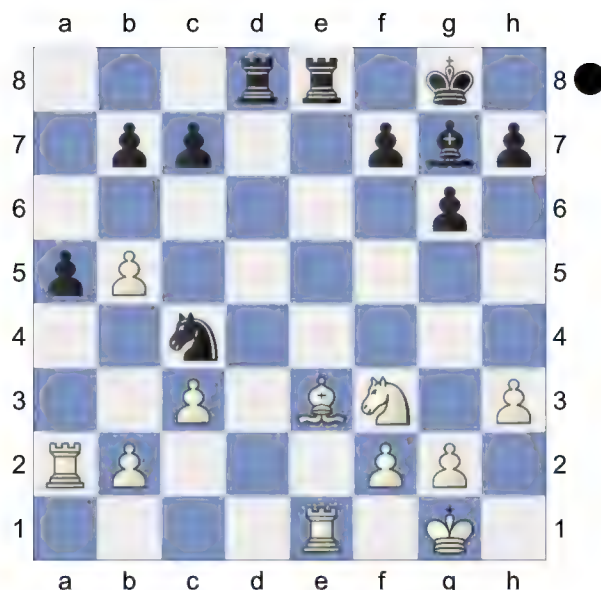
[19.Nc4= -0.17/20]

19...Bxb5± 20.axb5 Nb6! Strongly
 threatening ...Rxe3! 21.Nf3 Nc4 22.c3
 -2.01/25

[22.b3± -1.49/19 is a better defense.
 Nxe3 23.Rxe3 Rd1+ 24.Kh2 Rxe3
 25.fxe3]

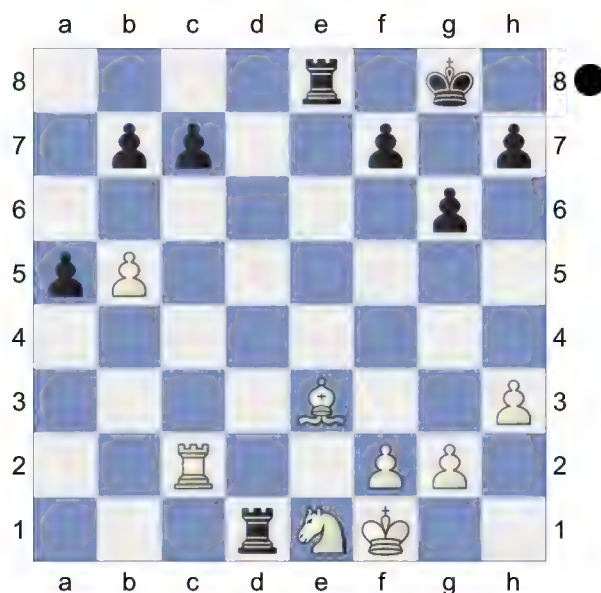
(Diagram)

22...Nxb2 -0.98/25 23.Rxb2 Hoping for
 Rc1. 23...Bxc3 24.Rc2 -2.10/18



[24.Reb1± -1.18/20 might work
 better. Bxb2 25.Rxb2]

24...Bxe1+ 25.Nxe1 Rd1 26.Kf1



a4! 27.Ra2

(Diagram)

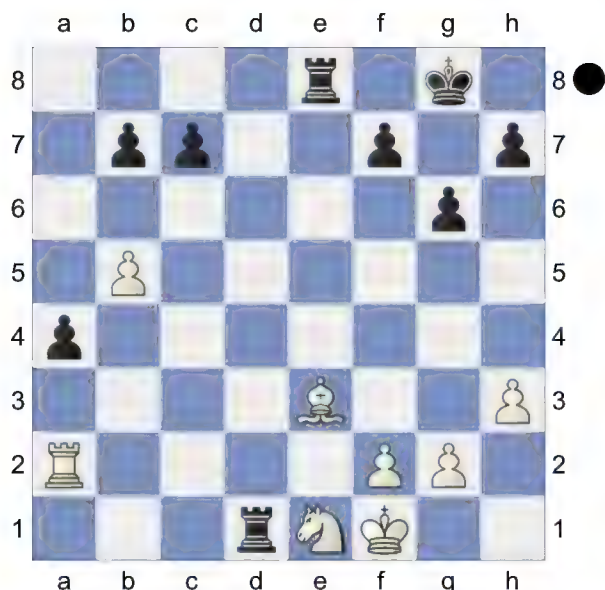
Ra8! 28.b6 -3.06/21

[28.Ke2 -2.13/18 Rb1 29.Nd3]

28...cxb6 29.Bxb6 Rb1

[29...a3? 30.Bc5+]

30.Bd4 b5 31.Ke2 b4 32.Nd3 a3?
 -0.20/20



[Black should play 32...f5+ -2.55/17 ...a3 would now be deadly. 33.h4 Kf7 (33...a3? 34.Bc5+)]

33.Bc5= Re8+ -1.37/22

[33...Rb3= -0.21/22 34.Bxb4 Rd8 35.Rxa3 Rdx3 36.Ra8+ Kg7]

34.Kd2± Rd8 Black is more active.

35.Ke2 Rb3

[35...Re8+?! 36.Kd2=]

36.Rd2 -4.77/21 Loses the game.

[36.Nxb4± -1.30/17 Rc8 (36...Rb2+ 37.Ke3=) 37.Be7]

36...Re8+ Black is clearly winning.

[36...a2 37.Rxa2 Rdx3 (37...Rbxd3 38.Bxb4 Rb3 39.Bc5±) 38.Bxb4±]

37.Kf3 a2 38.Bd4 -7.41/19

Against a1Q

[Δ38.Rxa2 -4.81/19 Rxd3+ 39.Be3]

38...Ra8 39.Rd1 Rb1 40.Rd2 b3

41.Ke4 a1Q 42.Bxa1 Raxa1

Weighted Error Value: White=0.67/ Black=0.55

0-1

□ **Firouzja,Alireza**

■ **Rapport,Richard**

Norway Chess 9th (10)

[Edouard,R, Kitty Kat]

B00

2754

2760

17.09.2021

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5

[3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 g6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.h3 0-0 7.d4 a6 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Qe2 Nd7 10.e5 a5 11.Rd1 Nb6 12.Bg5 Re8 13.b3 a4 14.Ne4 h6 15.Bh4 g5 16.Bg3 Bf5 17.c4 Qc8 0-1 (45) Grima Bongailas,I (2321)-7.

♙h4 b6 (2549) (ol) 50/217 Novi Sad 1990 (2)]

3...g6N

[3...Bd7 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6]

[3...Bg4 4.h3 Bh5 5.d4 a6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.Nc3 e6 8.Qd3 h6 9.Bf4 Nf6 10.0-0-0 Be7 11.g4 Bg6 12.Qe3 Qb8 13.Bg3 Qb6 14.Nd2 Rb8 15.Nb3 d5 16.f3 Bb4 17.Be5 Kd8 18.Bxf6+ (20) Cespedes,J (2115)-Perez,J (2159) 80/(67) Cuba 2000]

4.d4 a6 5.Ba4

[5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.Re1 Nf6 (7...Nh6) 8.e5 Nd7 9.Bg5 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.Qe2 0-0

A) 12.Qc4+ Kh8 13.Qxc6 Rb8 14.Qc3 (14.Nbd2) 14...Bf5;

B) 12.Qxe7 Qxe7 13.Rxe7 Nd5 14.Re1 Rb8;

C) 12.Nc3]

5...b5 6.Bb3 Na5 7.0-0 Bg7 Other moves are just bad. **8.c3** The position is equal.

[8.Qe2 e6 9.e5 h6]

8...Nxb3! Best. After other moves Black suffer even more from his late development. **9.axb3**

[9.Qxb3 Bb7 10.Re1 Nf6 11.e5±

1-0 (18) Sjogirov,S (2675)-Pichot,A (2630) Chess.com 2020 dxe5 12.Nxe5!N 0-0 13.a4± Nd7]

9...e6

[9...Bb7 10.Re1 (10.e5 dxe5 11.Nxe5± c5) 10...Nf6 11.Nbd2 0-0 12.e5± Nd5?]

10.Re1!?N Ne7 11.Nbd2!? 0-0

[11...h6]

12.Nf1 Bb7 13.Ng3 Qd7 14.h4 h6!?

15.Qd3?! This move seems to open too many doors for Black. 15...Rad8

[15...f5? 16.e5!]

[15...Rae8]

16.Bd2 -0.52/22

[16.Bf4= -0.05/22 deserves consideration.]

16...f5 17.c4

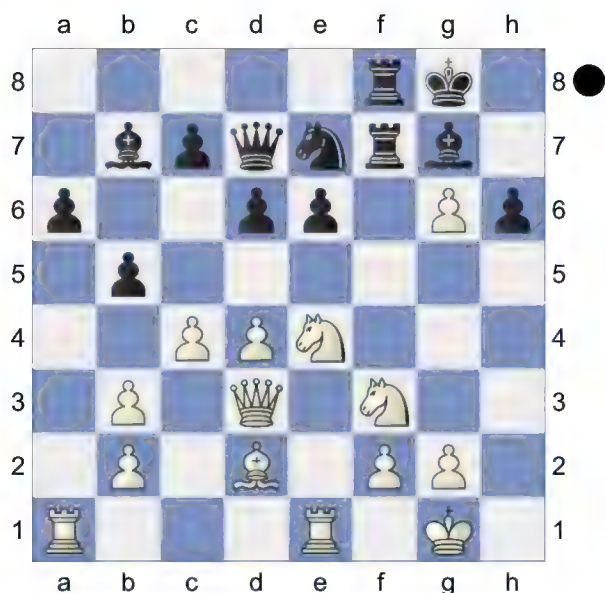
[17.e5 -1.15/23 17.c4 -0.48 Bxf3! also looks suspicious for Black. 18.Qxf3? dxe5]

[17.Rad1 fxe4 18.Nxe4 Nf5±]

17...fxe4 18.Nxe4 Rf7 19.h5 Rdf8!

[19...gxh5 20.Nh4! Rdf8]

20.hxg6



Rxf3 21.gxf3 Nf5?

[21...bxc4 22.bxc4 Nf5! with some compensation could be Rapport's

improvement, though it doesn't look like Black is achieving equality.]

22.cxb5

[22.f4!?N Nxd4 (22...Qe8 0.47/20 22...Nxd4 -0.69 23.d5 Qxg6+ 24.Ng3) 23.Bc3! bxc4 24.bxc4 c5]

22...Nxd4 It's too late!

[22...axb5 23.Ra7 was close to equality for Black in Tukmakov,V (2560)-Sveshnikov,E (2565) Ashkhabad 1978, ½-½ (22). Bc6

24.Ba5 Qe8 25.Rxc7 Qxg6+ 26.Kf1!± Bd5 Strongly threatening ... Nh4. 27.Rec1!±]

23.bxa6 Ba8 1.38/21 A strong pair of Bishops.

[23...Nxf3+ 24.Qxf3 would give White compensation, but would definitely not be as good. Rxf3 25.axb7 Rf8 26.Ra8 and Black is fine. Before only 26...Qb5 had been played, after which Black also seems to have problem - nevertheless Rapport surely had a "super-GM idea" in mind! 27.Bxh6 Bxh6 (27...Qxb7 28.Nf6+ Kh8 29.Rxf8+ Bxf8 30.Bxf8) 28.Nf6+ Kg7 29.Rxe6 Qxb7! (29...Qxb7!? 30.Nh5+ Kg8 31.Nf6+ Kg7 32.Nh5+ Kg8 33.Nf6+ Kg7=) 30.Nh5+ Kh8? 10.18/18 (30...Kg8 31.Nf6+; 30...Kg8= 0.00/23 31.Nf6+ Kg7 32.Nh5+ Kg8 33.Nf6+ Kg7) 31.Rxf8+- Bxf8 32.Re8]

[23...Nxf3+!? 24.Qxf3 Rxf3 25.axb7

A) 25...Rf8 26.Rac1± -0.97/21 (26.Ra4= 0.14/23 remains equal.);

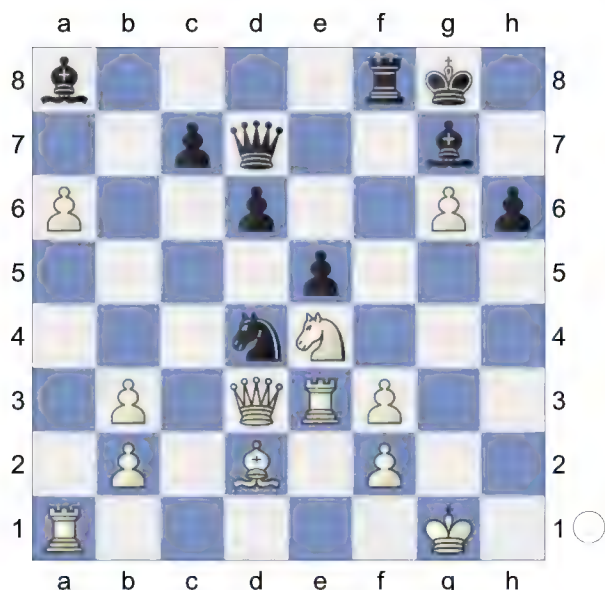
B) 25...Qb5=]

[23...Nxf3+= 0.00/22 24.Kg2 Ba8 (24...Nxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Ba8 26.Kf1±)]

24.f4! -0.07/17

[24.Re3 e5

(Diagram)



25.Rc1!

A) 25...Qh3! 3.54/20 25...c5 1.51
26.Rxc7 $\square$ Nxf3+ 5.18/5 (26...Qe6
3.54/18 was necessary. 27.b4
Qxg6+ 28.Ng3 Qf6) 27.Rxf3+-
Rxf3 and Black seems to have very
serious problems. 28.Rc8+?;

B) 25...Rf4!+- 26.Qc4+;

C) 25...c5 26.b4 Qh3 2.52/18
(26...Bc6 $\pm$ 1.44/20) 27.bxc5+-
Nxf3+ with perpetual check.
28.Rxf3 seemed simpler and better
to me. Rxf3 was the alternative, but
White would have compensation
after any recapture on e5. 29.Be3]

[24.Re3! $\pm$ 1.38/21]

24...e5! = 25.Ra4

[25.Bc3= Black must now prevent
Bxd4.

A) 25...Rxf4? 2.50/18 25...Qg4+ -1.
14 26.Bxd4 exd4 27.Ng3;

B) 25...Qg4+ 26.Qg3 (or ...Kf7
first) Nf3+ 27.Kg2 seemed pretty
ugly, but it could be that Black is
simply better. (27.Kf1? -2.42/22
27.Kg2 -0.37 Qh5) 27...Nxe1+!?
28.Rxe1 Qf5 looked frightening, as
Black is left with nearly no pieces

on the queenside while his kingside
is totally undeveloped. However, it
doesn't seem that White has any
"killer" here, so that was surely the
safest bet for Black. 29.f3
was another alternative. It seems
best for White would be. fxe5 is the
strong threat. d5! 30.Nf2! d4
and here several moves are
possible, but the forcing 31.Bd2
seems to hold:. Hoping for Qg4.
Qc2 32.Rd1! Rf6;

C) 25...d5 was probably more
precise, so the rook isn't hanging
when White plays Nd4, e.g.
26.Nf6+! Bxf6 27.Bxd4 exd4 $\neq$
28.f5]

25...Qg4+ With equal material and a
king on g6, no need to say Black is
totally lost! **26.Kf1!**

[26.Qg3 -0.96/21 26.Kf1 -0.15 Nf3+
27.Kg2 Nxe1+ 28.Bxe1 Qh5]

26...Nf3

[26...Qxg6 27.a7 $\pm$]

27.Rc1? -3.32/20 Loses the game.

[27.Ke2! Nxe1+ (27...Nd4+ 28.Kf1;
27...Nh2+? 1.78/19 27...Nxe1+ -0.13
28.f3 Qg2+ 29.Kd1!) 28.Kxe1 exf4
aiming for ...d5! 29.f3 Qg1+ 30.Qf1!
Qxg6]

[27.Ng3? -3.04/19 27.Ke2 -0.32 h5=
And now ...h4 would win. 28.f5
-3.79/19 ($\triangle$ 28.Rc1 -2.37/16 h4
29.Rxc7) 28...Nh2+-+ 29.Kg1

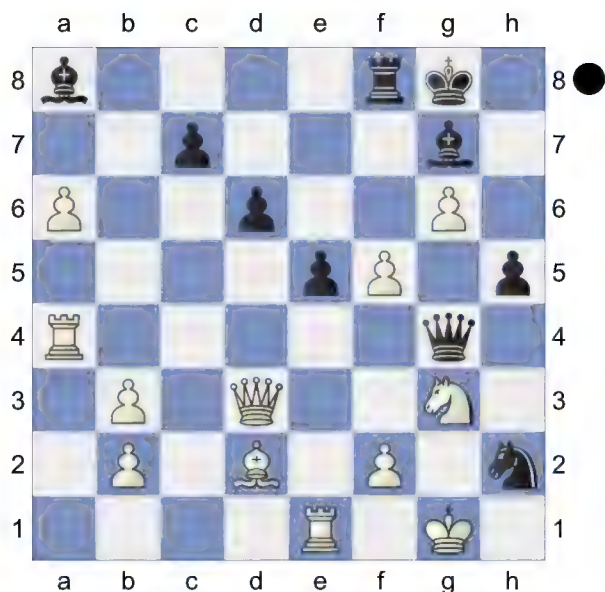
(Diagram)

Qh3! 30.Rae4 h4]

[27.Rd1 c5! (27...exf4 -0.84/16
27...c5 -1.84 28.Bc3)]

[27.Ke2!= -0.26/21 and White has
nothing to worry. Nxe1+ 28.Kxe1]

27...exf4+- 28.a7? -5.74/19



[28.Bc3 -2.50/14 Qg1+ 29.Ke2 Qxc1 30.Qxf3]

28...Nh2+

[28...d5]

29.Ke1 Qg1+ 30.Ke2! f3+

[30...Qxg6? is the wrong capture. 31.Bc3+- (31.Rxc7 Qg4+ 32.f3 Qg2+ 33.Kd1 Nxf3+-)]

31.Qxf3

[31.Ke3! -#1/13 31.Qxf3 -2.44 Ng4#!?]

31...Nxf3 32.Rxg1 And Nf5 next!

32...Nxg1+ might have been a better try, but after **33.Kf1 Nf3 34.Ba5 -3.75/19** White wins.

[34.Rb4? -4.81/18 34.Be3 -2.19 Bxe4 would be awful for Black.]

[34.Be3!! looked extremely frightening but seems to hold. Two fun computer lines: Ne5]

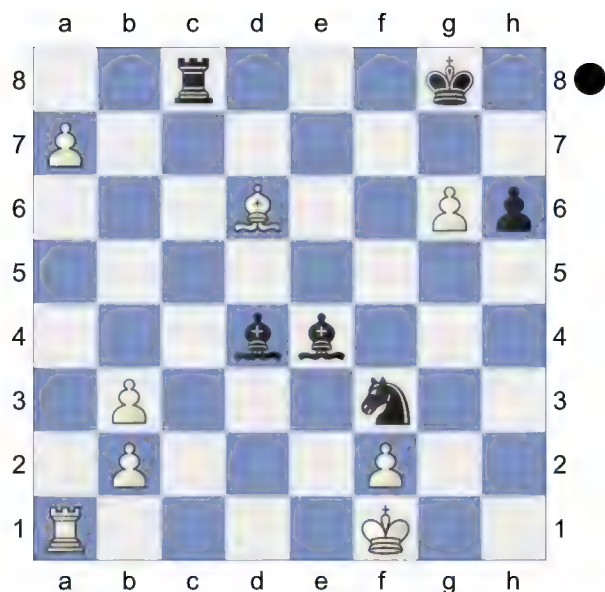
[34.Bc1 -2.43/22]

34...Bd4

[Weaker is 34...Bxb2 35.Bxc7 Kg7 (35...Bxe4 36.Rxe4 Ra8 37.Kg2=) 36.Nxd6]

35.Bxc7 Bxe4 was strong as well.

36.Bxd6 Rc8+- The point! **37.Ra1** (Diagram)



Wards off Rc1+ 37...Bxa7! Threatens to win with ...Rc2! Deflection 38.Bf4

[38.Rxa7 Rc1+ 39.Kg2 (39.Ke2 Re1#) 39...Rg1+- And mates thanks to the a4-pawn! 40.Kh3 Bf5#! followed by either Qxg7+ or Rc1.]

[38.Kg2 Bd4]

38...Bd4 39.Bxh6 Rc2 40.Be3 Bxe3!!

41.fxe3 Bd3#

Weighted Error Value: White=0.93/ Black=0.32. Loss on time!?

1-0

B00

□ **Nepomniachtchi, Ian**

2792

■ **Firouzja, Alireza**

2754

Norway Chess 9th (2)

08.09.2021

[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5

[3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 g6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.h3 0-0 7.d4 a6 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Qe2 Nd7 10.e5 a5 11.Rd1 Nb6 12.Bg5 Re8 13.b3 a4 14.Ne4 h6 15.Bh4 g5 16.Bg3 Bf5 17.c4 Qc8]

0-1 (45) Grima Bongailas,I (2321)-7.
 ♖h4 b6 (2549) (ol) 50/217 Novi Sad
 1990 (2)]

3...g6N

[3...Bg4 4.h3 Bh5 5.d4 a6 6.Bxc6+
 bxc6 7.Nc3 e6 8.Qd3 h6 9.Bf4 Nf6
 10.0-0-0 Be7 11.g4 Bg6 12.Qe3
 Qb8 13.Bg3 Qb6 14.Nd2 Rb8
 15.Nb3 d5 16.f3 Bb4 17.Be5 Kd8
 18.Bxf6+ (20) Cespedes,J (2115)-
 Perez,J (2159) 80/(67) Cuba 2000]

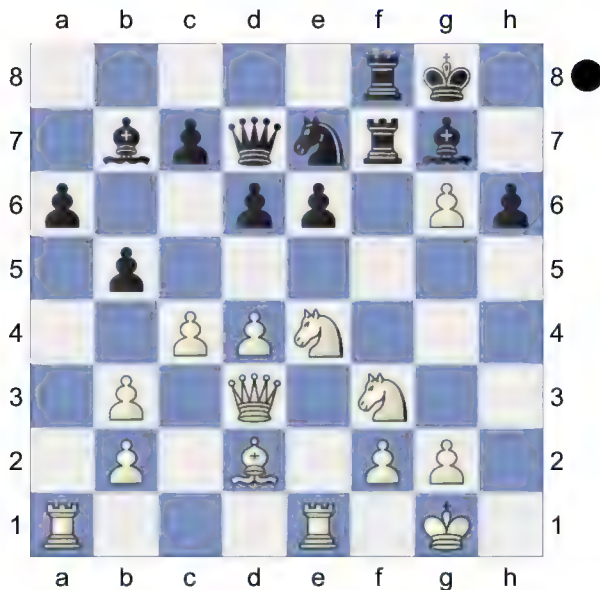
4.d4 a6 5.Ba4 b5 6.Bb3 Na5 7.0-0
Bg7 8.c3 The position is equal.
8...Nxb3! 9.axb3 e6 10.Re1 Ne7
0.18/20

[♠10...h6 -0.18/23]

11.Nbd2 0-0 12.Nf1 Bb7 13.Ng3 Qd7
14.h4 h6 15.Qd3 Rad8 16.Bd2 f5
17.c4 fxe4 18.Nxe4 Rf7 19.h5 Rdf8
-0.41/20

[19...gxh5 ♜ -0.78/22 20.Nh4 Nf5
 21.Nxf5 exf5]

20.hxg6 ♜



Rxf3 21.gxf3 Nf5 22.cxb5 Nxd4
23.bxa6 Ba8 0.93/19 A strong pair of
 Bishops.

[23...Nxf3+ ♜ -0.46/22 24.Kg2 Ba8
 (24...Nxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Bc6 26.Kg1±)]

24.f4 0.00/21

[24.Ra4± 0.93/19 Nxf3+ 25.Kf1]

24...e5= 25.Ra4 aiming for Rxd4!
25...Qg4+ 26.Kf1! Threatens to win with
Rxd4! 26...Nf3

[26...Qxg6 27.f3±]

27.Rc1? -3.16/10 Now White is beyond
 hope.

[27.Ke2! ♜ -0.37/16 Nxe1+ 28.Kxe1]

27...exf4+ 28.a7 -5.80/19

[♠28.Bxf4 -3.64/17 Rxf4 29.Ng3]

28...Nh2+? -2.02/5

[28...d5 -5.80/19 29.Rca1 dxe4
 30.Qc4+ Kh8]

29.Ke1 Qg1+ 30.Ke2 f3+

[30...Qxg6 31.Rxc7 Re8 32.Bc3
 (32.Bxf4 Qg4+ 33.f3 Qxf4+-)
 32...Bxc3 33.bxc3+-]

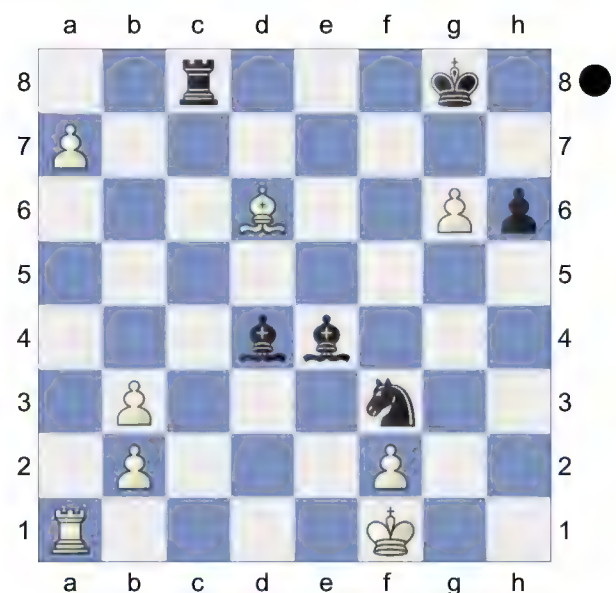
31.Qxf3 Nxf3 32.Rxg1 Nxg1+ 33.Kf1
Nf3 34.Ba5? -3.57/20

[34.Be3 -2.03/17]

34...Bd4

[Less strong is 34...Bxb2 35.Bxc7
 Kg7 (35...Bxe4 36.Rxe4 Nd2+
 37.Kg2=) 36.Nxd6 ♜]

35.Bxc7 Bxe4 36.Bxd6 Rc8 37.Ra1



Dodges Rc1+ 37...Bxa7! Strongly
threatening ...Rc2! Deflection 38.Bf4

[38.Kg2 Bd4]
38...Bd4 39.Bxh6 Rc2 40.Be3 Bxe3
41.fxe3 Bd3#

Weighted Error Value: White=0.83/
 Black=0.40. An unexpected result.

1/2-1/2

□ **Albornoz Cabrera, Carlos Daniel**

■ **Yoo, Christopher Woojin** 2583

Titled Tuesday intern op 12th Mar Late b..
[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence

Inf 32/(148) 1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4
Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.d5 Ne5

[5...Nb8 6.h3 (6.Be2 g6 7.0-0 Bg7
 8.Be3 0-0 9.Nd4 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 c6
 11.Rad1 Qc7 12.f4 cxd5 13.Nxd5
 Nxd5 14.exd5 a6 15.c4 Nd7 16.b3
 Nc5 17.f5 Ne4 18.Qf3 Nc5 19.h4
 b5 20.h5 bxc4 1-0 (35) Panov
 Botvinnik Attack (2433)-6. ♔f4 ♘bd7
 7.e3 52523 (2510) (ol) 38/(539) 1984
 (10)) 6...Bxf3 7.Qxf3 g6 8.Bg5 Bg7
 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.Qe2 c6 11.f4 Qc7
 12.g4 h6 13.Bh4 Nh7 14.e5 g5
 15.dxc6 Qxc6 16.Bg2 Qc8 17.exd6
 e6 18.f5 gxh4 19.fxe6 0-0 20.exd7
 1-0 (29) 2 b4 and 2 a3 (2587)-Kampal,
 T (2477) 69/374 Ubeda 1997 (1)]

6.Be2N

[6.Bb5+ c6 (6...Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7
 8.Nd4 c5 9.Nf5 Nxe4 10.Nxg7+
 Bxg7 11.Nxe4 0-0-0 12.Qe2 Qg4
 13.f3 Qh4+ 14.Qf2 Qh5 15.Rb1 f5
 16.Ng5 Bf6 17.h4 Bxg5 18.Bxg5
 Rhg8 19.Qd2 Rg6 20.Qf4 Rdg8
 21.Qxf5+ 0-1 (26) 12.♘e7 ♔e7 13.c4
 f5 12245-4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.Ne5 2
 111/204 Plovdiv 2010 (13)) 7.dxc6

Nxc6 8.e5 dxe5 9.Qxd8+ Rxd8
 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Nxe5 Bd7 12.Be3
 Nd5 13.Bxa7 Timman,J-Miles,A
Tilburg Tilburg 32/(148) 1981]

6...Bxf3 7.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 8.Qxf3
 White is slightly better. **8...g6 9.0-0**
0.15/21

[9.Be3± 0.53/21]

9...Bg7= 10.Be3 0-0 11.Bd4 c5
12.dxc6 bxc6 13.e5 -0.36/21

[13.Rad1= 0.00/19]

13...Nd7 ♠ 14.Qxc6 Nxe5 15.Qe4 Rb8
16.f4 -1.54/17

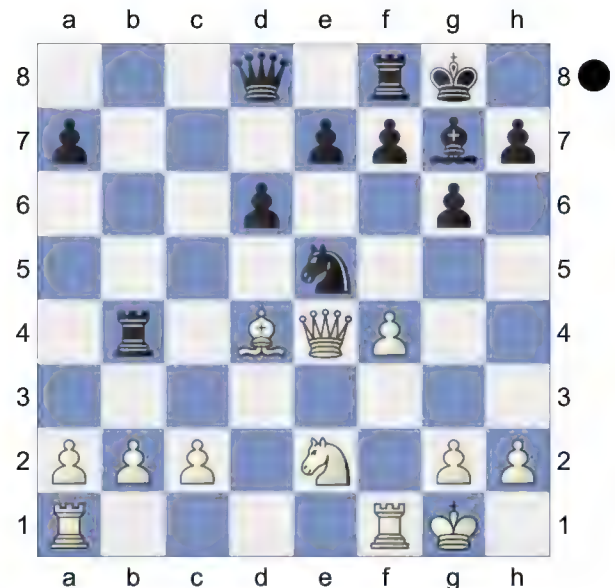
[16.b3= -0.17/18]

16...Rb4! ♠ And now ...Rxd4! would win.

17.Ne2 -2.56/18

[17.fxe5? too greedy. dxe5
 (17...Rxb2? loses. 18.Nd5+-)
 18.Rad1 Rxd4 (18...exd4?
 19.Nd5+-)]

[17.Rad1 ♠ -1.39/18 Ng4 (17...Nc6
 18.Qxc6 Bxd4+ 19.Kh1 ♠) 18.Nd5
 Rxd4 19.Nxe7+ (19.Rxd4? e6+-)
 19...Kh8 20.Rxd4]



17...d5!+- 18.Qe3 Ng4 19.Qc3 Bxd4+
20.Nxd4 Qb6 21.Rad1 Rxb2 22.Kh1
Rxa2 23.f5 Rb8? -0.22/20

[23...Ra4+ -3.09/19 Strongly threatening ...Qd6. 24.Qd2 Nf6]

24.Qg3? -2.07/22 This costs White the game.

[24.h3= -0.22/20 Nf6 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.Nc6]

24...Nf6 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.Nf5



Rb7

[And not 26...Rxc2 27.Nxe7+ Kg7 28.Nf5+ Kf8 29.Nd4#]

27.Qg5 -2.26/16

[Δ27.c4 -1.86/17]

27...Rxc2 White must now prevent ...

Rf2. 28.Rd3? -5.96/21

[28.Rf3 -2.08/18 is a better chance.]

28...Rf2 29.Nh6+ Kg7 30.Rg1 Ne4

31.Qh4 g5 32.Qg4 Qxh6 33.Rxd5

Rf4 34.Qh3 Nf2#

Weighted Error Value: White=1.22/
Black=0.33

0-1

B01

Demchenko,Anton **2654**

Dubov,Daniil **2711**

Chess.com Rapid Wk4 Swiss (5) 5.3.22

[Vogel, Roven, Kitty Kat]

B01: Scandinavian Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3

[2.d4 d5

A) 3.e5 Bf5 4.c3 e6 5.Nd2 f6∞

6.f4 fxe5 7.fxe5 Nh6 8.Ndf3 Nf7

9.Ne2!? Be7 10.Ng3 Bg4!

neutralizes the white ambitions

neutralisiert die weißen Ambitionen

(10...Bg6 11.h4; 10...g6) 11.Bd3

Ng5 12.Nxg5;

B) 3.Nc3 dxe4?? 4.d5!-+

Very unexpected sehr unerwartet

Ne5?

B1) 5.Bf4 Ng6= I already like

Black's position slightly better.

What do you think happens once

a knight appears on c5?

Die schwarze Stellung gefällt mir

schon leicht besser. Was

passiert wohl, wenn einmal ein

Springer auf c5 auftaucht? 6.Bg3

f5 White can never take on e5,

because of the well-known trick:

Weiß kann nie auf e5 nehmen,

wegen des bekannten Tricks:

7.Nh3?? e5 8.dxe6 c6-+

(8...Bxe6 9.Nb5) 9.Qxd8+!?

Kxd8 10.Ng5 Nh6 11.0-0-0+;

B2) 5.Qd4 Ng6 6.Bb5+

(6.Bc4 e5) 6...Bd7 7.Bc4]

2...d5

[2...d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nbd2 (4.Nc3;

4.d5)]

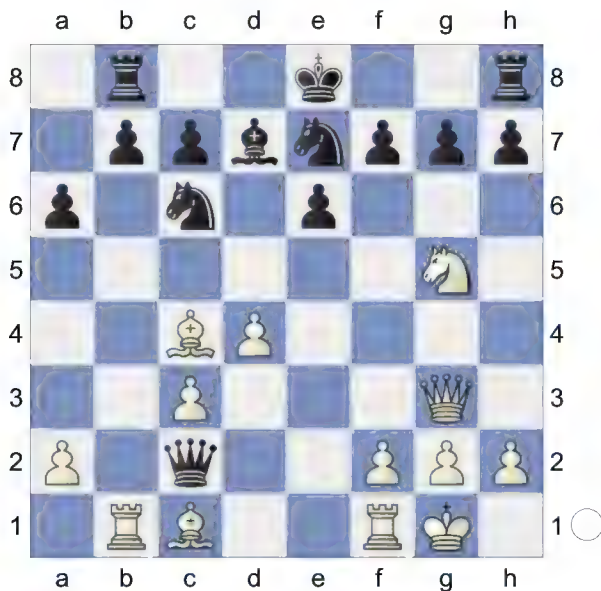
3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qa5 5.Bb5 Bd7

6.0-0 Nf6

[6...e6 1.24/23 6...a6 0.71 7.d4

Hoping for d5. Bb4 8.Qd3 0.83/21

(Δ 8.Rb1 1.31/22) 8...Bxc3 9.bxc3 a6 Repels c4 10.Bc4 Nge7 11.Rb1! Rb8 1.59/18 (11...0-0-0 1.63/22 11...b5 1.12 12.Ng5; Δ 11...b5 1.18/22) 12.Ng5= 0.97/22 (Δ 12.Re1 1.59/18) 12...Qf5?? 1.96/22 (12...h6± 0.97/22) 13.Qg3!+- Qxc2 2.52/19 (Δ 13...Qa5 1.86/19 14.Bd3 Nf5 15.Bxf5 Qxf5)



14.Bd3!+- Qxc3 (14...Qxa2 15.Ne4) 15.Nxf7!+- Nf5?! 16.Bxf5 Qxg3? 17.fxg3

A) 17...Kxf7 18.Bxh7+ Ke8 3.57/20 (18...Ke7 2.45/23 was necessary.) 19.Bg6+- Kd8! 20.Rf7;

B) 17...0-0 18.d5̄ if you can't evaluate d4, I still rather recommend wenn man d4 nicht einschätzen kann, rate ich trotzdem lieber zu 18...exf5 (18...exd5? 5.04/22 18...exf5 2.40 19.Bxd7 Rxf7 20.Rxf7 Kxf7 21.Bxc6) 19.dxc6]

[6...0-0-0 7.a3 a6 8.b4 Nxb4 9.Bxd7+ Rxd7 10.axb4 Qxa1 11.Ne5 Nf6 12.Qe2 e6 13.Nxd7 Nxd7 14.Qc4 c5 15.bxc5 Nxc5

16.Qf4 Qa5 17.Qxf7 Qc7 18.Qe8+ Qd8 19.Qh5 Qd4 Haria,R (2525)-12. ♖h5 g6 13. ♕d5 ♕c7 (2390) 50/294 Badenweiler 1990]

7.d3 0.40/20

[7.d4± 1.01/24]

7...a6± 8.Ba4 Qh5 The position is equal. 9.Ne2N

[9.Re1 b5 10.Bb3 Bg4 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Qxf3 13.gxf3 Nd4 14.Kg2 e6 15.Be3 Bc5 16.Ne4 Ba7 17.c3 Nf5 18.Bxa7 Rxa7 19.Nxf6+ gxf6 20.Re4 h5 21.a4 Rg8+ 22.Kh2 c6 23.Rg1 Rxg1 0-1 (52) Dame,E (2176)-12. ♖h5 g6 13. ♕d5 ♕c7 (2283) (m/1) 100/177 2007 (1)]

9...0-0 10.Ng3 Qa5 Dubov chooses the objectively best plan! Dubov wählt den objektiv besten Plan! 11.c3 Ne5?! 12.Bxd7+ Nfxd7 13.d4 Nxf3+ Only if no trick on f2 is possible at the moment and you have to cover e5 somehow. Otherwise rather more active. Nur, wenn gerade kein Trick auf f2 möglich ist, und man den e5 irgendwie decken muss. Sonst lieber aktiver. 14.Qxf3?! As we have already seen

several times, the bishop is often better on d2. Here, for example, the Be3 runs into d4. Wie wir bereits auch schon mehrmals gesehen haben, steht der Läufer oft auf d2 besser. Hier läuft der

Le3 z.B. in d4. 14...Nf6 15.Re1 e6 [15...Qd5 16.Qe2]

16.Re5 Qb6 17.b4! The black queen was already on the move to f7. Die schwarze Dame war bereits auf dem Sprung nach f7. 17...h6 0.78/23 Against Bg5

[17...Bd6± 0.31/25]

18.Re1 0.21/22 White is more active.

[18.a4± 0.78/23]

18...Qb5 19.Bf4 Bd6 20.Be5 Qd5?

And thus the game took its course. I think it became clear that Black should sometimes play ...d4. Und die Partie nahm so ihren Lauf. Ich denke, es wurde deutlich, dass Schwarz manchmal ...d4 spielen sollte. **21.Qe2 Qc6 0.58/22**

[21...Qb5= 0.18/23]

22.Rac1 0.10/21

[22.a4± 0.58/22]

22...Bxe5= 23.dxe5 Nd5 24.Qf3
Prevents Nf4 **24...g5 25.Nh5**

Inhibits Nf4. **25...Rhg8 0.10/23**

[25...Rh8!± -0.43/22]

26.Nf6

[26.Qxf7 Nf4 27.Nxf4 gxf4±]

26...g4 27.Nxg4 Rg5 28.Ne3 0.00/22

[28.h3± 0.40/25 is superior.]

28...Rdg8 0.60/25

[28...Nxc3 29.Qxc6 (29.Qxf7? Ne2+ Discovered Attack, Deflection 30.Rxe2 Qxc1+ 31.Nf1 Kb8-+) 29...bxc6 30.Rxc3+-]

[28...Nxb4!= 0.00/22 29.Qxc6 Nxc6]

29.g3

[29.Nxd5 -0.46/19 29.h4 0.85 Rxd2+ 30.Qxg2 -1.07/23 (White should play 30.Kh1!± -0.37/25 Qxd5 31.Qxd5 exd5 32.Rg1 Rxd1+ 33.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 34.Kxg1) 30...Rxd2+± 31.Kxg2 Qxd5+]

[29.Qxf7? too greedy. Nxe3 (29...Nxc3 30.g3±) 30.f3 Nxg2+- (30...Rxd2+? 31.Kh1-+)]

[29.h4!? R5g6 30.g3± (30.Qxf7 Nxe3 31.f3 Rxd2+ 32.Kh1 Qc4)]

29...Nxb4 Discovered Attack 30.Qxc6

[30.Qe2 with more complications. Nd5 31.Nxd5 Qxd5 32.Qe3]

30...Nxc6 31.f4 R5g7 32.Rcd1 h5

33.Kf2 Ne7 34.Rd3 Ng6 35.Kf3 Rd8

36.Rxd8+ Kxd8± Endgame. KRN-KRN

37.Rd1+ Kc8 38.Ke4 0.10/25

[38.Rh1± 0.92/26]

38...Ne7= 39.Rd2

[39.Rg1!? was already possible, but as always is not so easy to assess war schon möglich, aber ist wie immer nicht so leicht einzuschätzen]

How about, for example, for a change with Wie wärs z.B. zur Abwechslung mal mit **39...Rg8± 40.a4 b6 41.Rd1**
ΔRg7! 42.Rg1 Rg8 Δ43.h3! Kb7 0.52/25

[43...Nc6=

0.06/26

is more appropriate.]

44.g4 Kc6 45.Rh1 I particularly like this construction. Diese Konstruktion gefällt mir besonders gut. **45...Rh8? 46.g5 Rd8 47.Rh2±** Dodges Rd2 **47...Kc5 48.Rf2** Black must now prevent f5.

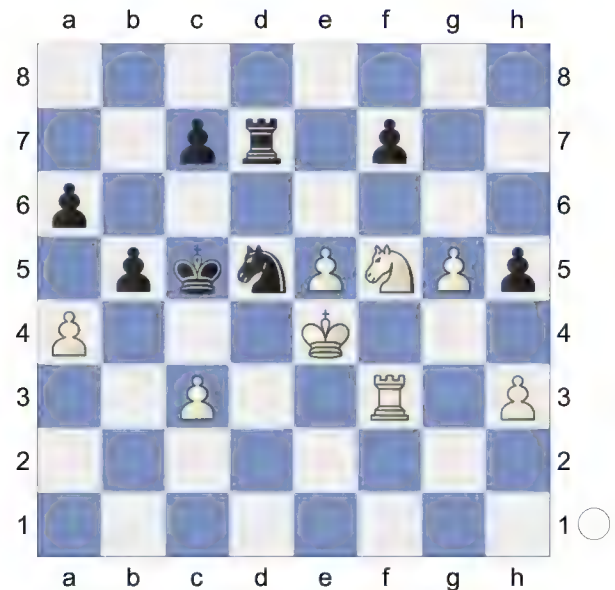
48...Rd7 0.36/23

[48...Re8!= 0.00/27]

49.f5 exf5+ 50.Nxf5 Nd5 51.Rf3 aiming for Rd3. **51...Kc4 4.20/27**

Black cannot hold the game after this.

[51...b5!=



52.axb5?! 0.22/21 (52.a5!± 1.36/23)

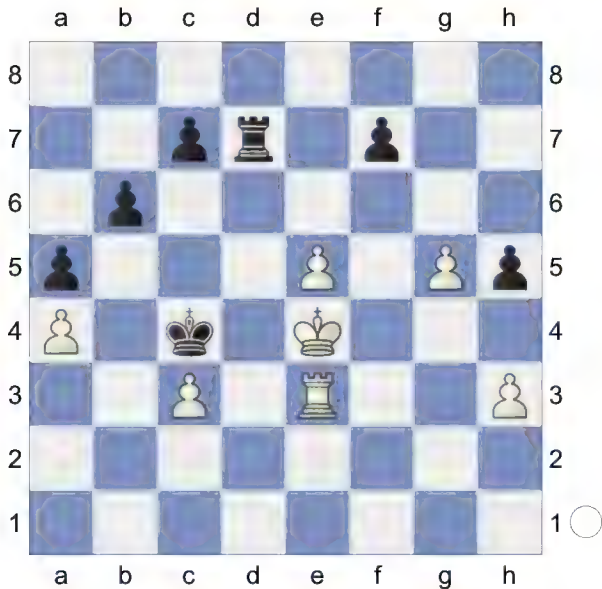
52...Kxb5↑ 3.42/21 (52...a5!= 0.22/21
and Black is okay.)]

[Black should try 51...b5!± 0.39/22]

52.Ne3+- Nxe3 53.Rxe3 KR-KR

53...a5

[53...Re7= 54.Kf5 Re6 55.Rg3
2.59/20 ($\triangleleft$ 55.Re1 4.46/27)
55...Rg6+- 56.Rg1]



White is clearly winning. 54.g6!
Deflection 54...fxg6 55.e6 Rd8 56.Ke5
b5 57.axb5 a4 58.e7 Re8 59.Ke6 a3
60.Kd7= "if it works, it works" "if it works,
it works" 60...a2 61.Re1 Ra8 62.e8Q

[Weaker is 62.e8B a1Q 63.Rxa1
Rxa1 64.Kxc7 g5=]

62...Rxe8 63.Kxe8 Kxb5 64.Ra1 Kc4
65.Rxa2 Kxc3 66.Rg2 c5 67.Rxg6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.28 (precise)

1-0

☐ Smirnov, Anton
☒ Carlsen, Magnus

(ol) 153/41 Chennai

[Arsovic, Goran, Kitty Kat]

B08
2600
2864
2022

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3
g6 5.h3 Bg7 6.Be3 0-0 7.Qd2 a6

[7...e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.0-0-0 Nxe4
10.Nxe4 f5 11.g4 fxe4 12.Ng5 c6
13.dxc6 d5 14.cxb7 Bxb7 15.Ne6
Qc8 16.Nxg7 d4 17.Bh6 e3 18.Qb4
Rxf2 19.Bc4+ Bd5 20.Nf5 Nxf5
21.Bxd5+ Kh8 22.Qa4 (24) Meszaros,
C (2342)-Mutter, V (2519) 103/275
Santa Clara 2008]

8.Bd3

[8.a4 - 13/182]

[8.d5 Nb8 9.Bh6 b5 10.Bxg7 Kxg7
11.Bd3 c5 12.dxc6 Nxc6
Early Deviations-N,N 2015]

8...e5 9.dxe5N

[9.d5 Ne7 10.g4 c6 11.dxc6 bxc6
12.0-0-0 d5 13.Nxe5 Nxe4 14.Bxe4
Bxe5 15.Bg2 Rb8 16.Rhe1 Be6
17.Na4 Qd6 18.c3 Rb5 19.f4 Bg7
20.Bf1 Ra5 21.Qc2 c5 22.c4 Rb8
23.Bd2 Rxa4 (27) Chapter-Games
Chapter 10 Game 3]

9...Nxe5 White is slightly better. 10.Nxe5
dxe5 11.0-0-0 b5 Diagram



12.g4N

[12.Bc5 Re8 13.Qe3 Bxb5! is the strong threat. Nd7 14.Be2 Qh4! Hoping for ...Bh6. 15.g3 Qh6 16.Kb1 c6[∞] Against Nd5]

12...c6 13.f3 Be6 14.h4 Qa5 15.a3
[15.h5 b4 16.Nb1! c5! 17.a3 Rac8 ∞]

15...Rfb8 0.36/21

[15...h5!?]

[15...h5= 0.00/24 deserves consideration.]

16.Bc5 0.00/25

[16.h5 b4 (16...Rb7!? 17.hxg6 fxc6 18.Kb1 b4 19.Na2 c5 ∞) 17.Nb1! c5 18.hxg6 c4! (18...fxg6?! 1.01/20 18...c4 0.49 19.Qe2! $\pm$) 19.gxh7+ (19.gxf7+ 0.21/21 19.gxh7+ 0.57 Bxf7 20.Bxc4 Bxc4 21.g5 Rd8! 22.Qh2! Rxd1+ 23.Kxd1 Ne8 24.Qxh7+ Kf8 ∞) 19...Kh8! 20.axb4 Rxb4 21.Be2! Ne8! 22.Qc3 Rab8 23.Qa3 Qc7 ∞]
[16.h5 $\pm$ 0.36/21]

16...h5

[16...Nd7!? 17.Bd6! Bf8! 18.Bxb8 (18.Bxf8 -0.58/19 18.Bxb8 0.01 Nxf8 $\bar{f}$) 18...Rxb8 19.h5

A) 19...Bxa3!? 20.hxg6 (20.bxa3 Qxa3+ 21.Kb1 Nc5 $\bar{f}$) 20...Bxb2+ Decoy 21.Kxb2 Qb4+ 22.Ka1 Qa5+ 23.Kb2 Qb4+ 24.Kc1 Qa3+ 25.Kb1 Qb4+ 26.Kc1 Qa3+ 27.Kb1 Qb4+ 28.Ka1 Qa3+ 29.Kb1=;

B) 19...b4 20.Nb1! Qb6 ∞]

17.Bd6 -0.61/21

[17.Kb1= 0.00/18]

17...Rb7 Repels Qxb4

[17...b4!? 18.Nb1 (18.Bxb4 Rxb4 19.axb4 Qa1+ 20.Nb1 hxg4 $\bar{f}$; 18.axb4 Qa1+ 19.Nb1 hxg4 $\bar{f}$) 18...c5 (18...hxg4 19.axb4 Qa1 20.Bxe5 $\bar{f}$) 19.Bxb8 Rxb8 $\pm$]

18.Kb1

[18.Bxe5? b4 (18...hxg4 19.Qg5=) 19.Qf4 bxc3 20.Bxc3 Qc7 21.Qxc7 Rxc7+]

18...Rd8 -0.29/23

[18...hxg4 $\bar{f}$ -0.67/20 was preferable. 19.fxg4 Rd7 (19...Nxc4 20.h5 $\pm$; 19...Bxc4 20.Be2 $\bar{f}$)]

19.Bb4 -0.73/23

[19.Bc5!= -0.29/23]

19...Qc7 Black is more active.

[19...Qb6 20.Ne2 aiming for g5. Qa7 21.Ba5 Rdd7 22.g5 Ne8 $\bar{f}$]

20.Ne2 Rd7

[20...hxg4 21.Ba5 Rxd3! 22.cxd3 Qd6 23.f4 Nh5 24.fxe5! Bxe5 25.d4 Bg7 $\bar{f}$]

[20...hxg4!? 21.Ba5 Rxd3 22.cxd3 Qe7 $\bar{f}$]

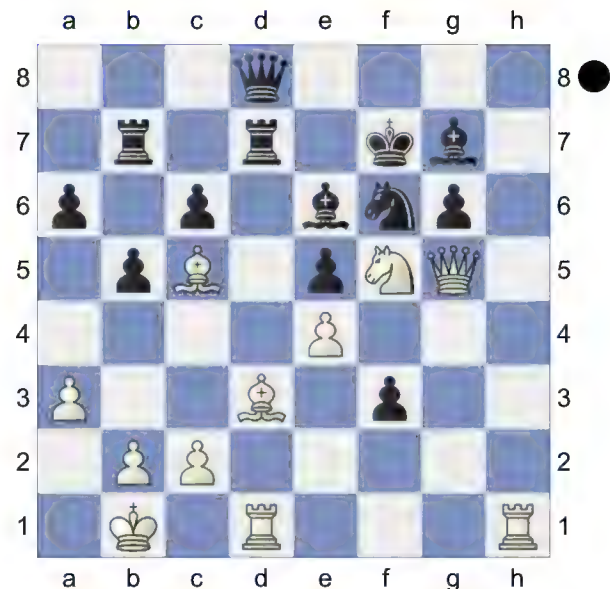
21.Bc5

[21.g5 Nh7 22.Qc3 Prevents c5 Bf8 23.Ba5 Qb8! ...b4 would now be deadly. 24.Nc1 c5 25.Be2 Rd4 ∞ -0.09/21 (25...Bd6! $\bar{f}$ -0.51/21 should be considered.)]

21...hxg4 22.Ng3! gxf3 23.h5 Qd8!

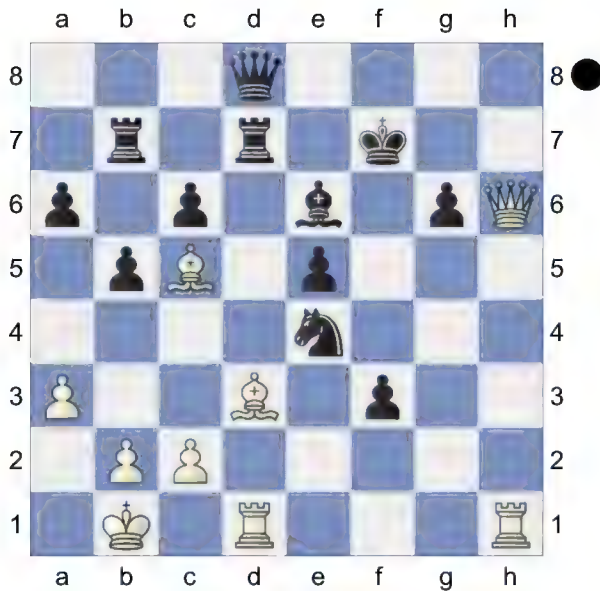
[23...Ng4 24.hxg6 Qd8 (24...fxg6? 25.Qg5+-) 25.gxf7+ Rxf7 26.Nf5 Bxf5 27.exf5 $\pm$]

24.hxg6 fxc6 25.Qg5 Kf7 26.Nf5? -2.61/20 Diagram



26...Nxe4! -1.09/23 27.Nh6+ $\bar{f}$ Bxh6

28.Qxh6



And now Qh7+ would win. **28...Bf5!**

[28...Nxc5 29.Bxg6+ (29.Qxg6+ Ke7±) 29...Kf6 30.Be8+ Kf5 31.Rh5+ (31.Bxd7 f2+-) 31...Ke4 32.Bg6+]

29.Ka2 -2.26/22 Qg8

[29...Nxc5 30.Bxf5 Qf6 (30...Rxd1 31.Qxg6+ Ke7 32.Rh7+ Kf8 33.Rh8+ Ke7 34.Qg7+ Deflection, Double Attack Kd6 35.Rxd8+; 30...gxf5 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Qxf5+ Rf7 33.Rxd8+ Ke7 34.Qxe5+ Ne6 35.Rd6) 31.Qh7+ (31.Bxd7 Rxd7 32.Qh7+ Ke8+-) 31...Kf8 32.Bxd7 Rxd7 (32...Nxd7 33.Kb1±) 33.Rxd7 Qe6+ 34.Rd5 Qxd5+ (34...cxd5? 35.Qh8+ Qg8 36.Qf6+ Ke8 37.Rh8+-) 35.b3±]

30.Bxe4 Bxe4 31.Rde1 -3.63/18

[31.Kb1⌘ -1.50/19]

(Diagram)

Loses the game. **31...Kf6+!-+**

[31...Bxc2 32.Qh2 f2 33.Bxf2= (33.Qxf2+ Bf5=)]

**32.b3 Rh7 Prevents Qh4+.**

[32...Bxc2 33.Qh4+ (33.Re3? Qd5⌘) 33...g5 34.Qh6+ Qg6 (34...Bg6 35.Rxe5 Decoy Kxe5 36.Qxg5+ Ke6 37.Re1+ Kf7 38.Qf4+ Kg7 39.Re7+ Bf7 40.Qg5+ Kh8 41.Qh6+ Qh7 42.Qf8+ Qg8 43.Qh6+ Qh7 44.Qf8+ Qg8 45.Qh6+=) 35.Qh8+ Qg7 36.Qh2 Bxb3+ (36...Bf5 37.Rxe5 Rb8 38.Bb4=) 37.Kxb3 Rd3+ 38.Ka2= (38.Kc2 Rd5=)]

33.Qe3 Rxh1

[Worse is 33...Bxc2 34.Qxe5+ Kf7 35.Qe6+ Kg7 36.Bd4+ Kf8 37.Qe8#]

34.Rxh1 Qd5

[Not 34...Bxc2 35.Qxf3+ Kg7 36.Bd6 Qxb3+ 37.Qxb3 Bxb3+ 38.Kxb3±]

35.Kb2 -3.72/20

[35.Rh2 -2.20/18 Rd7 36.Bb4]

35...Rd7 36.Rh8 Bf5 37.Rf8+ Rf7**38.Re8 Qe4 39.Qd2 Kg7 40.Bf2 Qe2**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/ Black=0.21 (precise)

0-1

□ Zaltz,D **B08**
 2600
 ■ Molina,Roberto Junio Brito **2864**
 33rd NCC Philadelphia USA 2022
[Kitty Kat]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.h3 Bg7 6.Be3 0-0 7.Qd2 a6
 [7...e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.0-0-0 Nxe4 10.Nxe4 f5 11.g4 fxe4 12.Ng5 c6 13.dxc6 d5 14.cxb7 Bxb7 15.Ne6 Qc8 16.Nxg7 d4 17.Bh6 e3 18.Qb4 Rxf2 19.Bc4+ Bd5 20.Nf5 Nxf5 21.Bxd5+ Kh8 22.Qa4 (24) Meszaros, C (2342)-Mutter, V (2519) 103/275 Santa Clara 2008]

8.Bd3

[8.d5 Nb8 9.Bh6 b5 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.Bd3 c5 12.dxc6 Nxc6 Early Deviations-N,N 2015]

8...e5 9.dxe5N

[9.d5 Ne7 10.g4 c6 11.dxc6 bxc6 12.0-0-0 d5 13.Nxe5 Nxe4 14.Bxe4 Bxe5 15.Bg2 Rb8 16.Rhe1 Be6 17.Na4 Qd6 18.c3 Rb5 19.f4 Bg7 20.Bf1 Ra5 21.Qc2 c5 22.c4 Rb8 23.Bd2 Rxa4 (27) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 Game 3]

9...Nxe5 White has an edge. **10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.0-0-0 b5 12.g4 c6 13.f3 Be6 14.h4 Qa5 15.a3 -0.07/19**

[15.h5± 0.35/18]

15...Rfb8 0.53/21

[15...h5= -0.07/19]

16.Bc5 -0.09/21

[16.h5± 0.53/21]

16...h5

[16...Nd7!? 17.Bd6 Bf8 18.Bxb8 b4±]

17.Bd6 -0.44/20

[17.Kb1= 0.00/17]

17...Rb7 18.Kb1

[18.Bxe5 b4 (18...hxg4 19.Qg5=) 19.Bxf6 Bxf6-+]

18...Rd8 -0.28/19

[18...hxg4 19.fxg4 Nxg4 (19...Bxg4 20.Rdg1 21.Bc5)

19.Bb4 Qc7 20.Ne2 Rd7 21.Bc5 hxg4 22.Ng3 gxf3 0.00/23

[22...b4! 23.axb4 gxf3]

is more appropriate. 23.axb4 gxf3]

23.h5= aiming for h6. 23...Qd8!

[23...Ng4 24.hxg6 Qd8 (24...fxg6? 25.Qg5+-) 25.gxf7+ Rxf7 26.Nf5 Bxf5 27.exf5±]

24.hxg6 fxf6 25.Qg5 Kf7 26.Nf5? -1.87/21



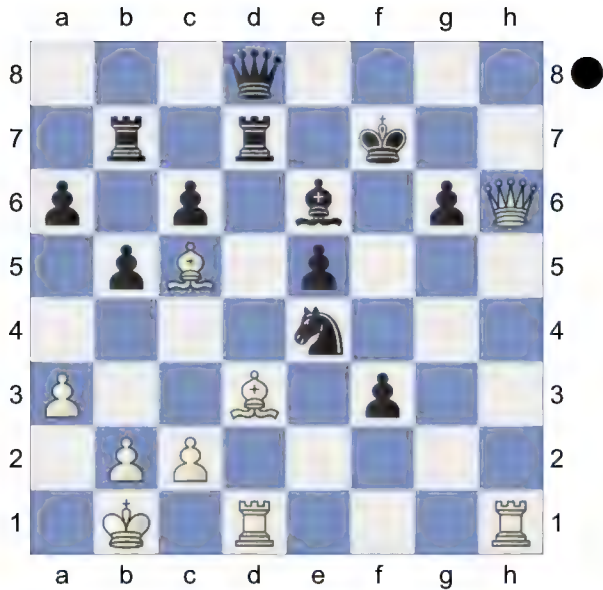
Nxe4! -0.79/22 27.Nh6+ 28.Qxh6 Bxh6

(Diagram)

Strongly threatening Qh7+. 28...Bf5!

[28...Nxc5 29.Bxg6+ (29.Qxg6+ Ke7+-) 29...Kf6 30.Be8+ Kf5 31.Rh5+ (31.Bxd7 Rxd7 32.Rh5+ Ke4 33.Re1+ Kd5 34.Qe3 Kd6 35.Qxe5+ Ke7 36.Qxc5+ Kf6) 31...Ke4 32.Bg6+]

29.Ka2 -2.19/21



[29.Rc1+ -1.08/17 Rxd3 (29...Nxc5 30.Bxf5 Qf6 31.Bg4+) 30.cxd3]

29...Qg8 -1.29/19

[29...Nxc5 30.Bxf5 Qf6 (30...Rxd1 31.Qxg6+ Ke7 32.Rh7+ Kf8 33.Rh8+ Ke7 34.Qg7+ Deflection, Double Attack Kd6 35.Rxd8+; 30...gxf5 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Qxf5+ Rf7 33.Rxd8+ Ke7 34.Qg5+ Rf6 35.Rh7+ Ke6 36.Qg4+ Rf5 37.Rh6+ Skewer Ke7 38.Qg8 Rf7 39.Qe8#) 31.Qh7+ (31.Bxd7 Rxd7 32.Qh7+ Ke8+) 31...Qg7 32.Bxg6+ Kf8 33.Qh5 (33.Rxd7 Rxd7 34.Qh5 Ke7+) 33...Rxd1 34.Qxf3+ Ke7 35.Rh7± (35.Qxd1? Qxg6 36.Re1 Qf5+; 35.Qxd1? Qxg6 36.Qe2 Rd7+)]

[Better is 29...Ke6+ -2.19/21 ...Rh7 would now be deadly. 30.Qe3 Rxd3 (30...Nxc5? 31.Bxf5+ gxf5 32.Qxc5+-) 31.Rxd3 Qe8]

30.Bxe4 Bxe4 31.Rde1? -3.21/19

[31.Qg5+ -1.33/21]

(Diagram)



Now White is beyond hope. 31...Kf6+!+

[31...Bxc2 32.Qh2 f2 33.Bxf2= (33.Qxf2+ Bf5=)]

32.b3 Rh7 Prevents Qh4+.

[32...Bxc2 33.Qh4+ (33.Re3? Qd5+) 33...g5 34.Qh6+ Qg6 (34...Bg6 35.Rxe5 Rd2+ 36.Ka1=) 35.Qh8+ Qg7 36.Qh2=]

33.Qe3 Rxh1 -2.10/12

[Inferior is 33...Bxc2 34.Qxe5+ Kf7 35.Qe6+ Kg7 36.Bd4+ Kf8 37.Qe8#]

[33...Qd5 -3.59/21 Threatens to win with ...Rxh1. 34.Rxh7 Rxh7 35.Qxe4 Qxe4 (35...Qxc5 36.Qxf3+ Kg7 37.Re2+) 36.Rxe4 g5]

34.Rxh1 Qd5

[34...Bxc2 35.Qxf3+ Kg7 36.Bd6 Qxb3+ 37.Qxb3 Bxb3+ 38.Kxb3±]

35.Kb2 -3.49/16

[35...Rh2 -2.31/13 Rd7 36.Bb4]

35...Rd7 36.Rh8 Bf5 37.Rf8+ Rf7 38.Re8 Qe4 39.Qd2 Qd8+ is the strong threat. 39...Kg7 40.Bf2 Qe2

Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.22 (precise)

0-1

B08
2675
2542

□ Niemann, Hans Moke

■ Hong, Andrew Z

Titled Tuesday intern op 13th Feb Early ..
[Kitty Kat]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Be2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d5 Nb8 8.h3 c6

[8...e5 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Nc6 12.Qd2 Kh7 13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 d5 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Ne4 Bf5 18.Ng3 Be6 19.Bf3 c6 20.Ne4 Bf5 21.Ng3 Be6 22.Ne4 Bf5 23.Nc5 (38) Main line 6.h3 / 7.Be2-N,N]

9.a4! is more profitable than 9.Re1 at the moment. scheint profitabler als 9.Te1.

9...a5N

[9...cxd5 10.exd5 Nbd7 11.Be3 a6 12.Nd4 Qc7 13.a5 b5 14.axb6 Nxb6 15.Nc6 Bb7 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.Bxb6 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Qxd5 Qxe2 20.Bd4 Bxd4 21.Qxd4 Rfc8 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Wagner,R (2467)-195. (2395) 126/(116) Jerusalem 2015]

10.Be3 Nbd7 11.Re1 White is more active. White is slightly better. **11...Nb6N**

[Vorgänger: 11...Qc7 0.88/22 11...Nc5 0.48 12.Bf1 Re8 13.Qd3 cxd5 14.exd5 Nc5 15.Qc4 b6 16.Qh4 Ba6 17.Bb5 Bxb5 18.Nxb5 1-0 Needleman,A (2417)-Valiente,C (2308) Mar del Plata op 34th 2003 (5)]

12.Qd2 Re8 13.Rad1 Qc7 14.Bh6 0.41/23

[14.Bf1± 1.03/25]

14...Bh8 1.01/23

[14...cxd5± 0.41/23 15.Bxg7 (15.Nxd5 Nbx5 16.Bxg7 Kxg7±;

15.exd5 Bd7=) 15...Kxg7]

15.Bf4 0.61/22

[15.Be3± 1.01/23]

15...Nfd7 1.26/21

[15...Bd7± 0.61/22]

16.b3± Ne5 17.Nxe5 Bxe5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 Black is weak on the light squares

19.h4 f6 20.dxc6 0.46/21

[20.Qe3± 1.48/22]

20...bxc6± 21.h5 g5 22.Qe3 Be6

23.Rd2 Red8 24.Red1 0.34/23

[24.Rxd8+± 0.83/23 Qxd8 25.Rd1]

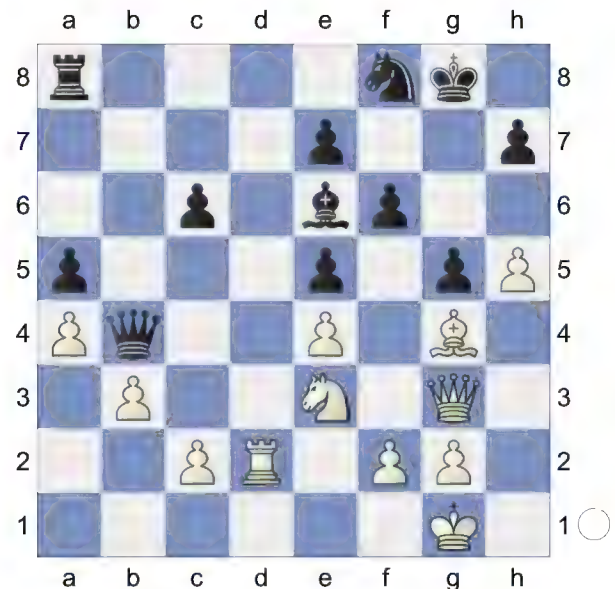
24...Rxd2 25.Rxd2 Nd7 1.03/25

[25...Nc8± 0.34/21]

26.Nd1± Qa7 27.Qg3 0.90/26

[27.Qc3 1.27/22]

27...Qc5 28.Bg4! Nf8 29.Ne3 Qb4



30.Bxe6+! Nxe6

(Diagram)

31.Nc4 Kf7 32.Qg4 0.87/22

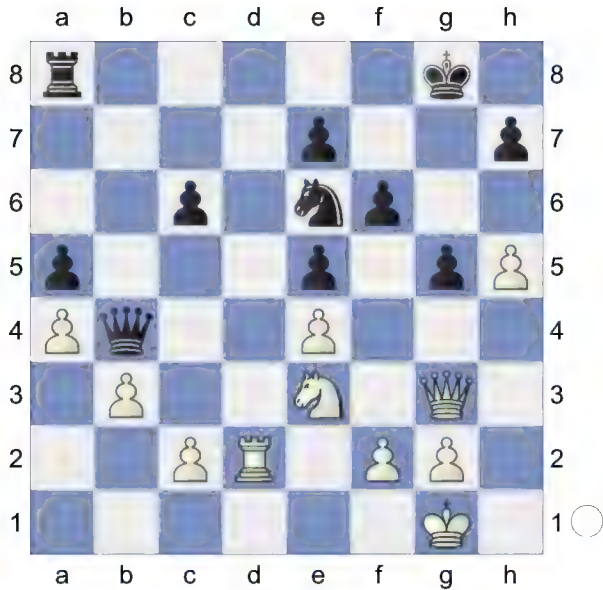
[Better is 32.Qh3 1.38/25 aiming for Qf5. Nd4 33.Kh2]

32...Rd8? 3.53/21

[32...Nd4± 0.87/22]

33.Rxd8+- Nxd8 Endgame. KQN-KQN

34.Qf5? 1.02/22



[34.Qd7+- 3.08/21 and White stays clearly on top.]

34...Kg7? 4.12/25

[34...Qe1+± 1.02/22 35.Kh2 Ke8]

35.Ne3 Nf7 36.Qe6 Threatens to win with Nf5+. 36...Nh6 37.Qc4

[Don't take 37.Qxc6 Qe1+ 38.Nf1 Kf8+-]

37...Qe1+ 38.Qf1 Qc3 3.46/22

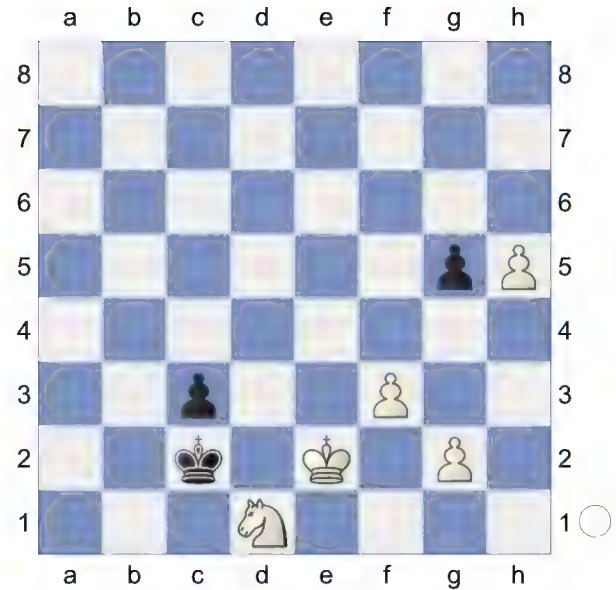
[38...Qb4 2.43/21 39.Qc4 Qe1+ 40.Nf1 g4 (40...Ng4? 41.Qc5+-)]

39.Qd1 Qd4? 5.88/22

[39...Qb4 3.42/24 40.Qd7 Qe1+ 41.Nf1 Kf7 42.Qxc6 Qb4]

40.Qxd4 exd4 KN-KN 41.Nc4 Nf7 42.Nxa5 Ne5 43.b4 Kf7 44.Nb3 d3 45.cxd3 Nxd3 46.a5 Nxb4 47.Nc5 Ke8 48.a6 Nxa6 49.Nxa6 KN-KP 49...Kd7 50.Kf1 Kd6 51.Nb4 Kc5 52.Nc2 Kc4 53.Ke2 c5 54.Ne3+ Kd4 55.f3 e6 56.Ng4 f5 57.exf5 exf5 58.Nf6 h6 59.Ng8 Kc3 60.Nxh6 c4 61.Nxf5 h6 would kill now. KN-KPP 61...Kb2 62.Ne3 White mates. 62...c3 63.Nd1+ Kc2

(Diagram)



64.Nxc3! Kxc3 KP-KP 65.h6 g4 66.h7 gxf3+ 67.gxf3 Kc4 68.h8Q Kd5 69.Qf6 Kc4 70.Qe5 Kb3 71.f4 Kc2 72.f5 Kb3 73.f6 Kc4 74.f7 Kb3 75.f8Q Kc2 76.Qc8+ Kb3 77.Qeb8+ Ka2 78.Qa6#

Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.61

1-0

Shirov,Alexei

Hong,Andrew Z

B08

2660

2542

Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Feb Late b.. [Kitty Kat]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Be2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Bg5N

[7.d5 Nb8 (7...Ne5 8.Nxe5 dxe5 9.Be3 8) White: 1.e4 vs. Other

Open-1...Nc6 #2 Opening Compass for Black and White 2023) 8.h3 e5 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Nc6 12.Qd2 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Qxd5 15.Qxd5 Bxd5 5.Be2 with a quick d4-d5,C]

[7.h3 a6 8.a4 e5 9.dxe5 (9.Be3 exd4 10.Nxd4 Re8 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bf3 Nd7 13.Qd2 Rb8 14.Rab1 Qf6 15.Be2 Qe5 16.Rfd1 Qa5 17.Bd4 Bxd4 18.Qxd4 Rb4 19.Qd2 Nc5 20.b3 Nxe4 21.Nxe4 Rxe4 22.Bf3 Re5 23.Bxc6 Bf5 0-1 (47) 8. Qb3 Qc6 9. Re1 Qe6 -Sowa,M 21/258 Amsterdam 1976) 9...dxe5 10.Be3 Qe7 11.Qc1 Rd8 12.Rd1 Be6 13.Ng5 Nd4 14.Nxe6 Qxe6 15.Bd3 Rd7 16.Rd2 Rad8 17.Qf1 Nh5 18.Rad1 Nf4 19.Bc4 Qe7 20.Bxf4 exf4 21.Nd5 Qxe4 0-1 (60) James,G (2311)-4.h3 Qg7 5. Qf3 de4 6. Qe (2596) Great Britain (Internet-playoff) 2020 (1)]

7...h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Nh5
The position is equal. 10.d5 Nxcg3

11.hxcg3 Ne5 12.Nd4 -0.18/22

[Δ 12.Nxe5 0.28/21 Bxe5 13.a4]

12...c5 13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.exf5 Qb6

15.Rb1 a6 16.Bh5 -0.11/24

[16.Qc1± 0.49/18]

16...Qa5 17.Qe2 -0.22/23

[Δ 17.f6 0.14/23 Bxf6 18.a3]

17...Rae8 18.a3 b5 19.Ne4 -0.37/20

[19.Nd1= 0.10/22]

19...Nd7!± 20.c3 Nf6 21.f4 Nxe4

22.Qxe4 Bf6! 23.Kh2 Kg7 24.Rf3

-0.94/19

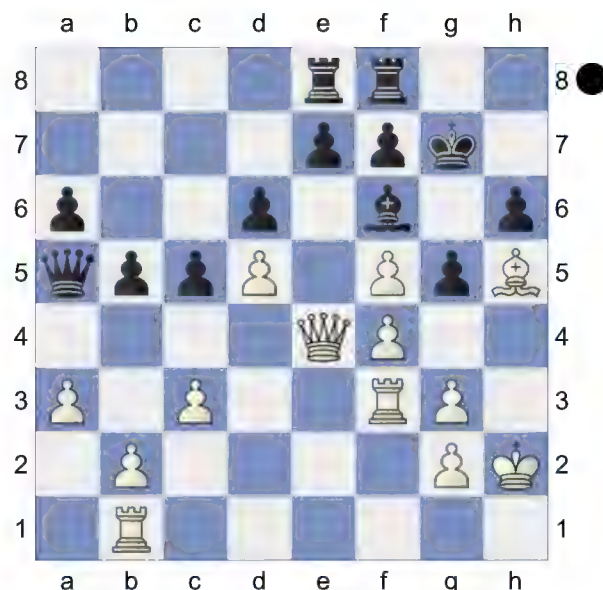
[24.Rfe1± -0.45/20 should be considered.]

(Diagram)

24...Rb8!± Black continues to play with concentration. 25.Re3

(Diagram)

b4! 26.cxb4 cxb4 27.Rbe1 bxa3



[Resist 27...Bxb2 28.Qxe7 Bf6 29.axb4 Qxd5 (29...Qxb4 30.Qe4=) 30.Bf3 Qxf5 31.Be4±]

28.Rxa3 Qb6 29.Rea1 -2.50/17

[29.b4± -1.37/16]

29...Qxb2+ 30.Rxa6 Rb4
Dodges R1a4

[Stronger than 30...Qxa1 31.Rxa1 Bxa1 32.Qxe7=]

31.Qf3 gxf4 32.R1a2 Qe5 33.g4? -6.85/22

[33.R6a4 -2.22/18 fxg3+ 34.Qxg3+ Qxg3+ 35.Kxg3 Rb3+ 36.Bf3]

33...Re4 34.R6a3 Re1 ...Rb8 would now be deadly. 35.Ra4 Re3 36.Qxf4 Qxf4+ 37.Rxf4 Be5 Pin 38.g3 Bxf4 39.gxf4 Endgame. KRR-KRB 39...Rc8 40.Kg2 Rc4 41.Kf2 Ree4

[41...Rxf4+? perishes. 42.Kxe3 Rf1 43.Ke2+-]

42.Ra7 Rxf4+ 43.Kg3 Rfe4 44.Ra8 Rc3+ 45.Kf2 Rb4 (-> ...Rb2+) 46.Ke2 Rb2+ 47.Kd1 Rh3 48.Kc1 Rg2

Weighted Error Value: White=0.73/ Black=0.18 (very precise)

0-1

☐ Aronian, Levon **B00**
☒ Carlsen, Magnus **2782**
2855

chess24.com (Int.-m/4-rapid) 150/24

[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.c3 e6 5.Bd3

[5.Nf3 - 58/(119) Qd7± 6.Nh4 - 58/(119) Be4 7.Nd2 0-0-0 8.Bb5 a6 9.Ba4 f6 10.Nhf3 Nge7 11.0-0 Ng6 12.Re1 Bf5 13.b4 fxe5 14.dxe5 b5 15.Bc2 d4 16.Bxf5 exf5 17.c4 Bxb4 (17...bxc4 18.Nxc4 Bxb4 19.Bd2) 18.cxb5 (18.e6) 18...axb5 19.Rb1 Rhe8 20.a4 Qd5 21.axb5 Bxd2 22.Bxd2 Ncxe5 23.Nxe5 Rxe5 24.b6 Rxe1+ 25.Qxe1 Kd7 26.bxc7 Rc8 27.Rb4 (27.Qd1) 27...Rxc7 (27...Nf8) 28.Qa1 Ke8 29.Rxd4 Qe6 30.h4 Rd7 31.Qa4 Ne5 32.Bf4 Nc6 33.Rc4 Ne7 34.Rc7 Nd5 35.Rc6 Qe1+ 36.Kh2 Kf7 37.Qa2 Qe4 38.g3 h6 39.h5 Qf3 40.Kg1 Kg8 41.Rc8+ (41.Qa8+) 41...Kh7 42.Qa8 Qd1+ 43.Kh2 Qxh5+ 44.Kg1 Qd1+

45.Kh2 Nxf4 46.Rh8+ Kg6 47.Qe8+ Kg5 48.gxf4+ Kxf4 49.Rf8 Rd3 (49...Kg5 50.Qe3+ Kg6 51.Qe6+ Kh7 52.Qg8+ Kg6 53.Qe6+ Kh7 54.Qg8+ Kg6 55.Qe6+)]

[5.Ne2 Nge7 6.Nf4 Qd7 7.Nd2 Bg6 8.Nb3 b6 9.a4 f6 10.a5 Bf7 11.Bb5 0-0-0 12.Nd3 B 00/09-N,N 2000]

5...Nge7 6.Ne2

[6.Bg5 Qd7 7.Ne2 h6 8.Bxe7 Nxe7 9.Ng3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 c5 11.0-0 h5 12.Nd2 Nc6 13.Ne2 0-0-0 14.a3 c4 15.Qc2 Na5 16.Nc1 Kb8 17.b4 cxb3 18.Ncxb3 Qa4 19.Rfb1 Rd7 20.Ra2 Be7 1-0 (45) 6.♘c6 bc6 7.e5 ♘d5 8.♘d (2600)-Korsunsky,R (2495) 83/324 Wijk aan Zee 2002 (1)]

6...h5N

[6...f6

A) 7.f4 h5= (7...Qd7 8.Ng3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 h5 10.Nd2 0-0-0 11.b4 h4 12.Ne2 Nf5 13.Nb3 Rg8 14.Rb1 g5 15.b5 Nb8 16.fxcg5 fxcg5 17.Bd2 Qh7 18.a4 Rd7 19.Rc1 Rf7 20.a5 Ba3 21.Ra1 Rgf8 22.Nbc1 (47) 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 and 3.e5-N,N Bb2 23.Ra2 Bxc1 24.Bxc1 a6 25.c4 dxc4 26.Qxc4 Ng7 27.Nc3 h3 28.Bxg5 hxg2 29.Rxg2 axb5 30.Qxb5 Rf3 31.Ne2 Qc2 32.Qc5 Qe4 33.Rhg1 Na6 34.Qc4 Nf5 35.Qxe6+ Kb8 36.Qc4 Qb1+ 37.Qc1 (47) 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 and 3.e5) 8.a4 (8.Qc2 h4± 9.Nd2 Qd7 10.h3 Nd8 11.Nf3 Nf7 12.0-0 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Nf5 14.Be3 0-0-0 15.Bf2 Be7 16.c4 dxc4 17.Qxc4 Threatens to win with Rac1. g5±) 8...Na5 9.b4 Nc4 10.Na3 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Nxa3! 12.Bxa3 Qd7±;

B) 7.exf6→ gxf6 8.0-0 Qd7 9.Ng3 0-0-0 10.Nxf5 Nxf5 11.Bxf5

-0.16/24 (Δ 11.Qf3 0.24/23)
 11...exf5= 12.Qf3 h5 13.Nd2 Bd6
 14.b4 -0.39/22 (14.Kh1= 0.00/25)
 14...Ne7 15.Nb3 Ng6! Strongly
 threatening ...f4. 16.Nc5! Bxc5!
 17.bxc5

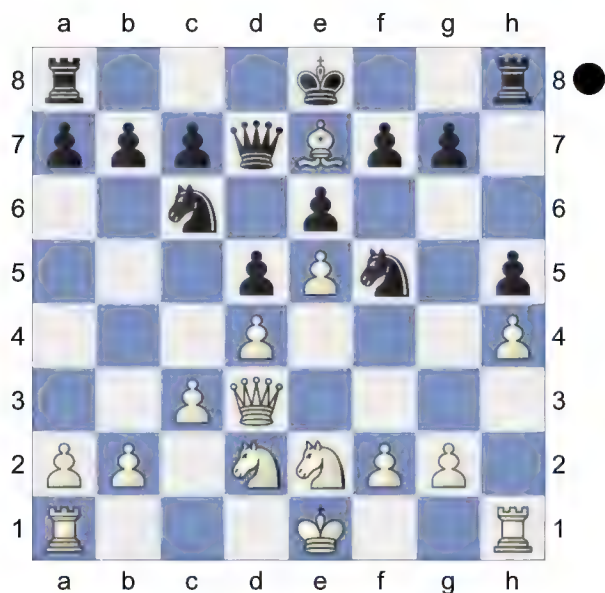
B1) 17...f4!? 18.Bd2 (18.Bxf4
 Qf5=) 18...a6=;

B2) 17...Rdg8 18.Kh1! Rg7
 19.Rg1 Qe6 20.Bd2 Qe4
 21.Qh3 Qg4 22.Qd3! Qe4!
 23.Qb5! c6 24.Qb2 f4=]

7.Bg5 Qd7 8.h4 Bxd3 White is slightly
 better. **9.Qxd3 Nf5 10.Nd2 Be7**

11.Bxe7 Diagram

[11.Nf3= Bxg5 12.hxg5! 0-0-0
 13.Nf4! g6 14.b4 Kb8 15.0-0 h4
 16.a4 h3 1.98/21 (16...Rc8± 1.38/24
 17.Rfb1 Ka8) 17.g3→]



11...Ncxe7N

[11...Qxe7]

12.Nf3 0-0-0?! 0.82/22

[12...Rc8! Δ Nb3-c5 ± 13.g3! c5
 14.0-0 0-0=]

[12...Rc8± 0.37/22 might be
 stronger.]

13.a4± Ng6 14.g3 f6 15.b4 Kb8

16.0-0 Rhf8 17.Kh2?

[17.a5+- a6 18.Rae1 Rf7 19.Nc1
 Δ Nb3-c5±]

17...Qf7 1.21/21

[Black should play 17...Qe8 0.76/20]

18.Neg1 0.84/23

[Δ 18.a5 1.21/21]

18...Nh6 19.Rae1

[19.Kg2 seems wilder. fxe5 20.dxe5
 Rde8 21.Rae1]

19...Ng4+ 1.12/22

[19...fxe5± 0.66/23 20.dxe5 Rde8]

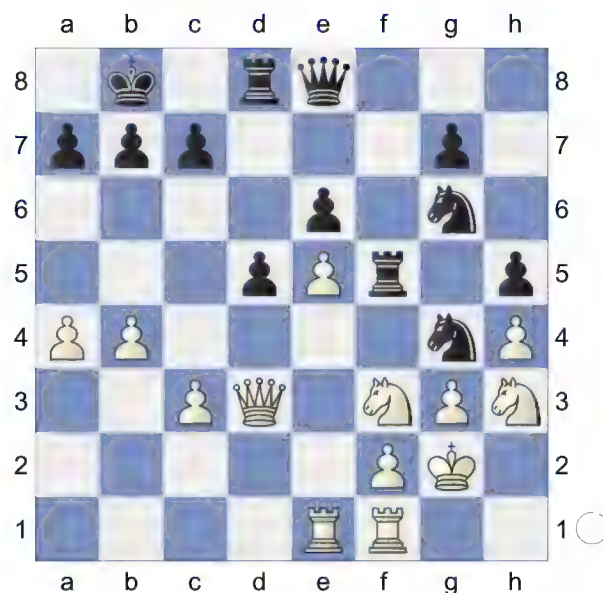
20.Kg2 fxe5 21.dxe5 Qe8 1.73/24

[21...c5± 1.12/21 was worth a try.]

22.Nh3 0.97/18

[22.Re2!+- 1.73/24]

22...Rf5 Diagram



23.Nhg5?

[23.Qd1!∞ Qd7! 24.a5 Rdf8 25.Nd4!
 Rxe5 26.Rxe5 N6xe5 27.Qe2
 f3 is the strong threat. Qd6 28.a6+-]

23...N6xe5 24.Nxe5 Nxe5 25.Qd4 Nc6

26.Qd3 0.00/23

[26.Qxg7= e5 27.Qh7∞]

[26.Qxg7± 0.69/24 e5 27.Qh7]

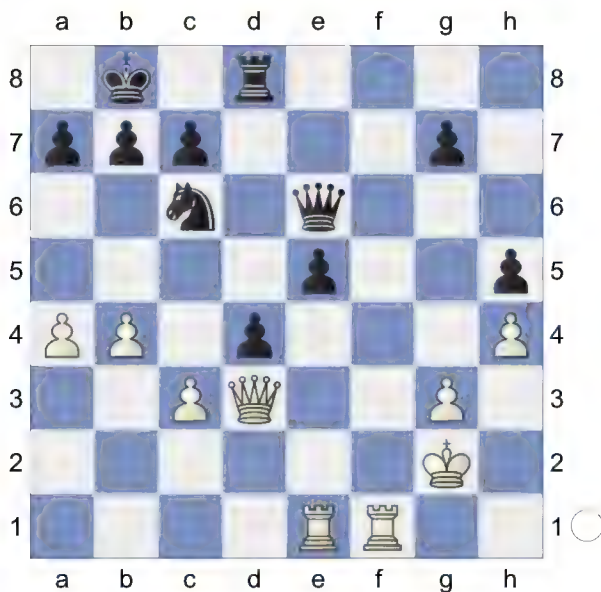
26...Rf6? 0.64/25

[26...Qg6!+- 27.Qd1! e5 28.b5 Na5
 Hoping for ...Nc4. 29.f4 exf4 30.Qb1!]

Re6 would now be deadly. Qf6
 31.Nh7 Qf7 aiming for ...f3+.
 32.Ng5=]
 [26...Qg6!= 0.00/23 27.Qb1 (27.f4?
 Rxc5 Discovered Attack 28.Qxc6
 Rxc6+-) 27...e5]

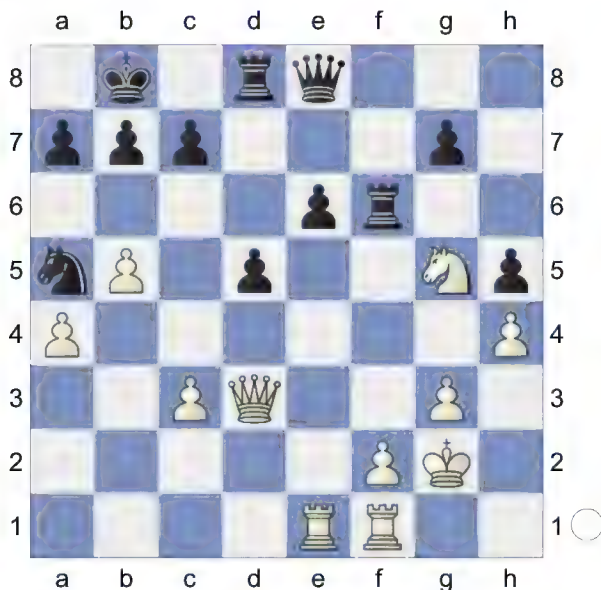
27.b5?!

[27.f4!± d4! 0.72/24 (27...Rd6=
 0.29/21) 28.f5± e5 29.Ne6! Rxe6?
 2.35/20 (29...Rd6!± 0.61/20)
 30.fxe6+- Qxe6



31.b5!+-]

27...Na5 Diagram



28.Qh7?! 0.04/22

[28.f4!±]

[White should try 28.f4!± 0.57/24]

28...e5= 29.Qxc7 Rf5 30.Qh7↑
 White is pushing. **30...Rf8 1.93/25**
 Black cannot hold the game after this.

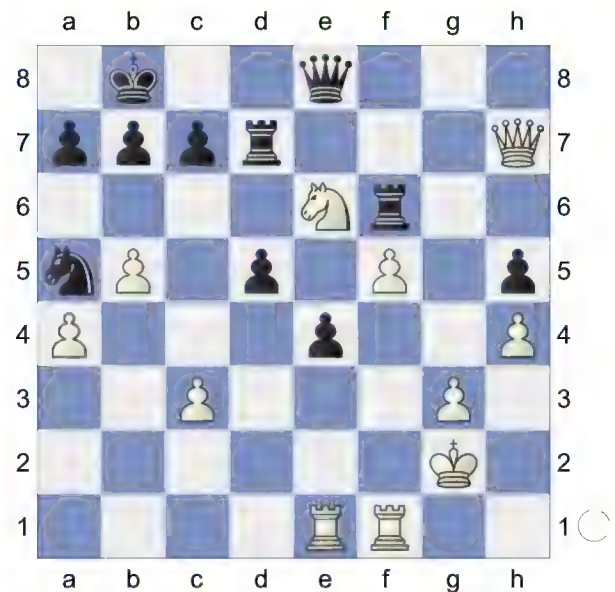
[30...Rf6!]

[30...Rf6!= 0.05/23]

31.f4!!+- e4 32.f5 Qe5

[32...Rf6 And now ...Rd7 would win.

33.Ne6 Rd7 Diagram



34.Qg6!+-]

33.f6

[33.Qxh5?! Qxc3 34.Qg4 Nc4±]

33...Qxc3? 4.12/22

[33...Rxf6 1.83/20 is a better defense.
 34.Nf7 (34.Qxh5 Nc4±) 34...Rxf1
 35.Nxe5 (35.Rxf1 Qe7±) 35...Rxe1]

34.f7 Active counter play!

[Worse is 34.Qxh5 Rxf6 35.Rxf6
 Qxf6= (35...Qxe1 36.Rf1±)]

34...Nc4 35.Ne6

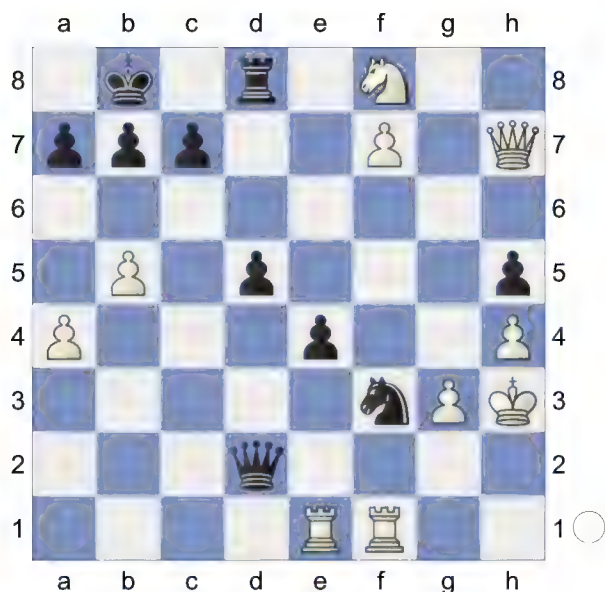
[Weaker is 35.Qxh5 d4+-]

35...Qd2+ 36.Kh3 Ne5

[Wrong is 36...Ne3? 37.Rxe3 Qxe3
 38.Nxd8]

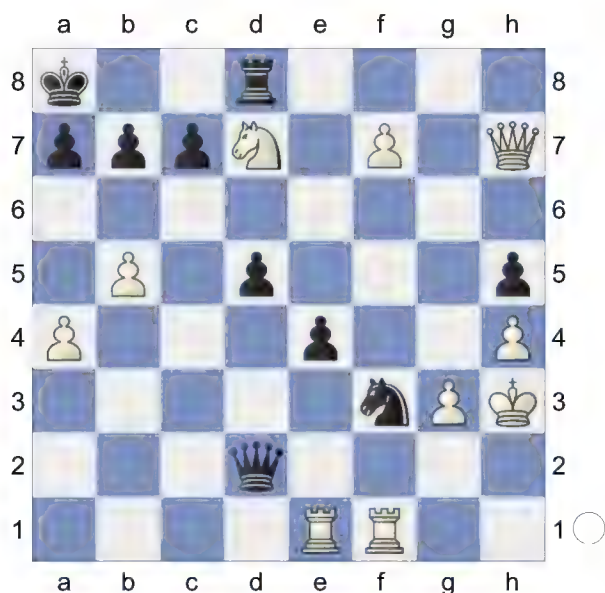
37.Nxf8 Nf3

(Diagram)



38.Nd7+! Ka8

[38...Kc8 39.Qxh5]



39.Qxh5! Nxe1

[39...c6 40.Qxf3]

40.f8Q

Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.64

1-0

□ **Aronian, Levon**

■ **Carlsen, Magnus**

chess24.com (Internet-m/4-rapid)

[Moradiabadi, E, MH]

B00

2782

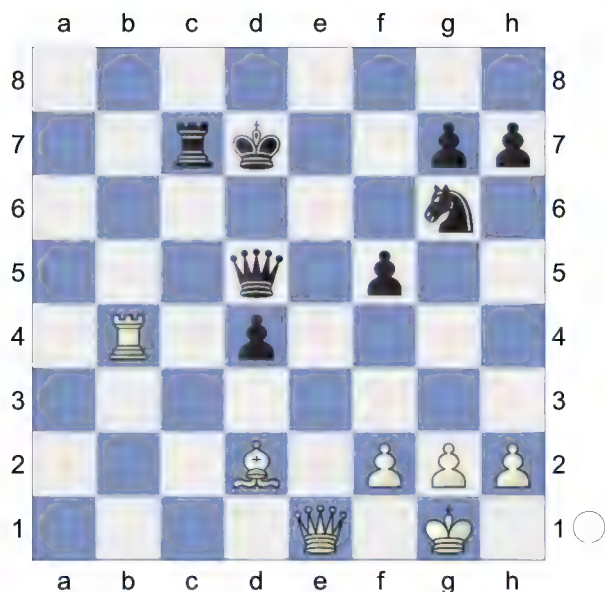
2855

2021

Elshan's Explorations Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals Magnus wins, Wesley stumbles The Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals proved to be another success for online chess where a lot of heated chess battles occurred. Although the final result was a rather expected one, we saw once more Carlsen winning the tour as he entered the final with the most number of bonus points one could imagine. Nevertheless, the event saw a lot of fantastic chess. It is really easy to write about it with so many interesting games, opening ideas, critical moments, and tragicomedies. So, instead of focusing on a game or two for the whole event, here I bring before you a plethora of chess beauties that embellished the event! **1.e4 Nc6** Carlsen has employed this idea before against Nepomniachtchi in 2020. **2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.c3 e6 5.Bd3**

[5.Nf3 Qd7 6.Nh4 Be4 7.Nd2 0-0-0 8.Bb5 a6 9.Ba4 f6 10.Nhf3 Nge7 11.0-0 Ng6 12.Re1 Bf5 13.b4 fxe5 14.dxe5 b5 15.Bc2 d4 16.Bxf5 exf5 17.c4! Bxb4 (17...bxc4 18.Nxc4 Bxb4 19.Bd2→) 18.cxb5 (18.e6!?) 18...axb5 19.Rb1 Rhe8 20.a4 Qd5 21.axb5 Bxd2 22.Bxd2 Ncxe5 23.Nxe5 Rxe5 24.b6 Rxe1+ 25.Qxe1 Kd7 26.bxc7 Rc8 27.Rb4 (27.Qd1!?) 27...Rxc7 Diagram (27...Nf8!?)

(Diagram)



28.Qa1! Ke8 29.Rxd4 Qe6 30.h4 Rd7 31.Qa4 Ne5 32.Bf4 Nc6 33.Rc4 Ne7 34.Rc7 Nd5 35.Rc6 Qe1+ 36.Kh2 Kf7 37.Qa2 Qe4 38.g3 h6 39.h5 Qf3 40.Kg1 Kg8 41.Rc8+ (41.Qa8+) 41...Kh7 42.Qa8 Qd1+ 43.Kh2 Qxh5+ 44.Kg1 Qd1+ 45.Kh2 Nxf4 46.Rh8+ Kg6 47.Qe8+ Kg5 48.gxf4+ Kxf4 49.Rf8 Rd3 Δ Rh3! (49...Kg5?⊕ 50.Qe3+ Kg6 51.Qe6+ Kh7 52.Qg8+ Kg6 53.Qe6+ Kh7 54.Qg8+ Kg6 55.Qe6+ 1/2 : 1/2 Nepomniachtchi,Ian 2784 - Carlsen,Magnus 2863, chess24.com (Internet-rapid) 2020)]

5...Nge7 6.Ne2 h5

[6...f6 This is also an interesting choice.

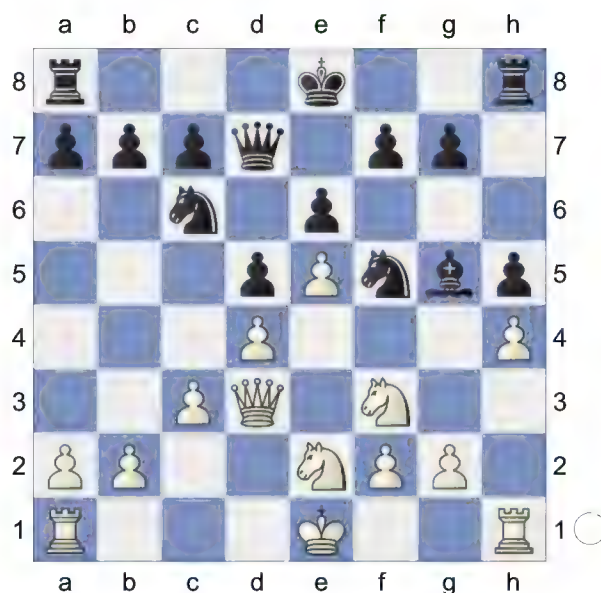
A) 7.f4 h5 8.a4 (8.Qc2 h4 9.Nd2 Qd7 10.h3 Nd8 11.Nf3 Nf7 12.0-0 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Nf5 14.Be3 0-0-0 15.Bf2 Be7 16.c4 dxc4 17.Qxc4 g5≠) 8...Na5 9.b4 Nc4 10.Na3 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Nxa3 12.Bxa3 Qd7≠;

B) 7.exf6 gxf6 8.0-0 Qd7 9.Ng3 0-0-0 10.Nxf5 Nxf5 11.Bxf5 exf5 12.Qf3 h5 13.Nd2 Bd6 14.b4

Ne7 15.Nb3 Ng6 16.Nc5 Bxc5 17.bxc5 Rdg8 18.Kh1 Rg7 19.Rg1 Qe6 20.Bd2 Qe4 21.Qh3 Qg4 22.Qd3 Qe4 23.Qb5 c6 24.Qb2 f4= Meshalkin, Yury - Latypov,Mikhail, corr 2018/19]

7.Bg5 Qd7 8.h4 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 Nf5 10.Nd2 Be7 11.Bxe7?!

[11.Nf3 Bxg5 Diagram



12.hxg5! I believe this is a small finesse missed by Aronian. 0-0-0 13.Nf4 g6 14.b4 Kb8 15.0-0 h4 16.a4 h3 17.g3→ Black has no attack on the kingside while White's attack seems to be unstoppable on the queenside.]

11...Ncxe7 12.Nf3 Diagram

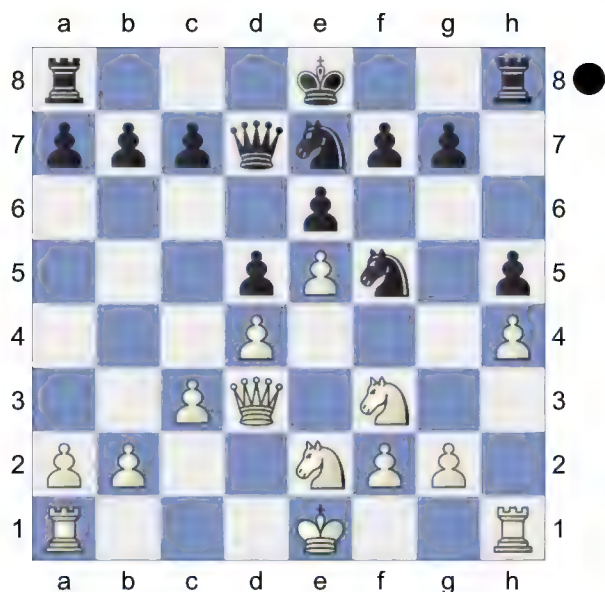
(Diagram)

12...0-0-0?!

[12...Rc8! 13.g3 c5 14.0-0 0-0=]

13.a4 Ng6 14.g3 f6 15.b4 Kb8 16.0-0 Rhf8 17.Kh2? A waste of time.

[17.a5 a6 18.Rae1 Rf7 19.Nc1± with Nb3 and Nc5 following. White is better, or maybe even strategically winning.]



17...Qf7 18.Neg1 Nh6 19.Rae1 Ng4+
20.Kg2 fxe5 21.dxe5 Qe8 22.Nh3
Rf5 23.Nhg5? After outplaying his
opponent once again, Aronian loses
some of his advantage.

[23.Qd1! Qd7 24.a5 Rdf8 25.Nd4
Rxe5 26.Rxe5 N6xe5 27.Qe2 Qd6
28.a6+- This sequence is very hard to
see and almost impossible in a rapid
game.]

23...N6xe5 24.Nxe5 Nxe5 25.Qd4 Nc6
26.Qd3? Diagram

[26.Qxg7 e5 27.Qh7∞ Could lead to
something similar to the game
continuation.]

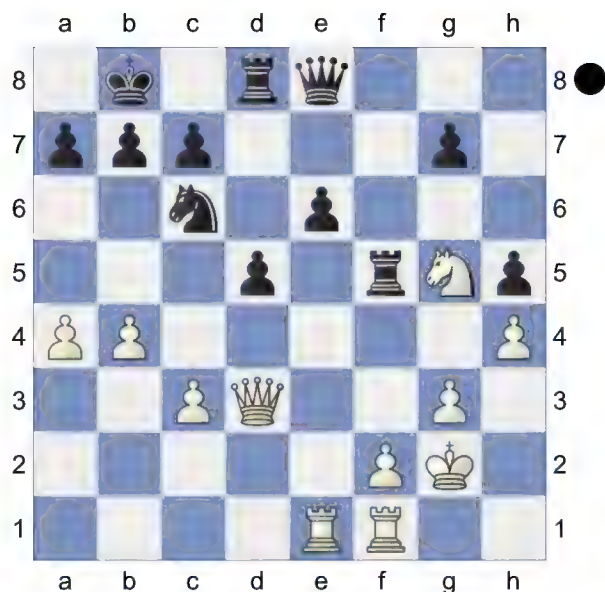
(Diagram)

26...Rf6?

[26...Qg6! 27.Qd1 e5 28.b5 Na5
29.f4 exf4 30.Qb1 Qf6 31.Nh7 Qf7
32.Ng5= An almost impossible draw to
occur, but Qg6 was a nice resource
that Carlsen missed.]

27.b5?!

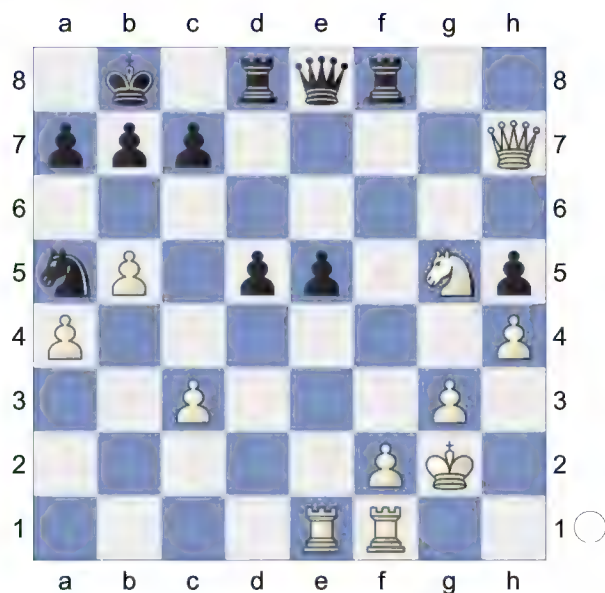
[27.f4! d4 28.f5 e5 29.Ne6 Rxe6
30.fxe6 Qxe6 31.b5+-]



27...Na5 28.Qh7?!

[28.f4!±]

28...e5 29.Qxg7 Rf5 30.Qh7 Rf8??
Carlsen tried to play for a win but. ..
Diagram



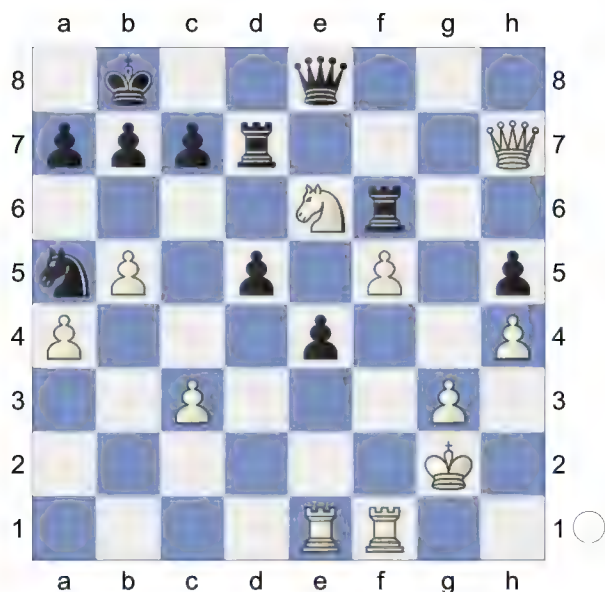
31.f4!! A mind-blowing intuition! The
pawn will roll and decide the game.

31...e4 32.f5 Qe5

[32...Rf6 33.Ne6 Rd7 Diagram

(Diagram)

34.Qg6!!+-]



33.f6 Qxc3 34.f7 Nc4 35.Ne6 Qd2+
36.Kh3 Ne5 37.Nxf8 Nf3 38.Nd7+
Ka8 39.Qxh5 Nxe1 40.f8Q
A great example of the super-GM
intuition.

1-0

□ Aronian, Levon

■ Artemiev, Vladislav

chess24.com (Internet-m/4-rapid)

[Moradiabadi, E, MH]

B00

2782

2699

2021

I chose this encounter to show how creativity and tenacity could change a game. This position is better for Black as White's misplaced bishops are easy to trade, after which, it will be only Black who can rule the board. However, Aronian showed his creativity and by means of some luck managed to entirely turn the tables and score a crucial victory. 1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.c3 e6 5.Bd3

[5.Nf3]

5...Nge7 6.Ne2 h5

[6...f6

A) 7.f4 h5 8.a4 (8.Qc2 h4 9.Nd2 Qd7 10.h3 Nd8 11.Nf3 Nf7 12.0-0 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Nf5 14.Be3 0-0-0 15.Bf2 Be7 16.c4 dxc4 17.Qxc4 g5) 8...Na5 9.b4 Nc4 10.Na3 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Nxa3 12.Bxa3 Qd7;

B) 7.exf6 gxf6 8.0-0 Qd7 9.Ng3 0-0-0 10.Nxf5 Nxf5 11.Bxf5 exf5 12.Qf3 h5 13.Nd2 Bd6 14.b4 Ne7 15.Nb3 Ng6 16.Nc5 Bxc5 17.bxc5 Rdg8 18.Kh1 Rg7 19.Rg1 Qe6 20.Bd2 Qe4 21.Qh3 Qg4 22.Qd3 Qe4 23.Qb5 c6 24.Qb2 f4]

7.Bg5 Qd7 8.h4 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 Nf5 10.Nd2 Be7 11.Bxe7

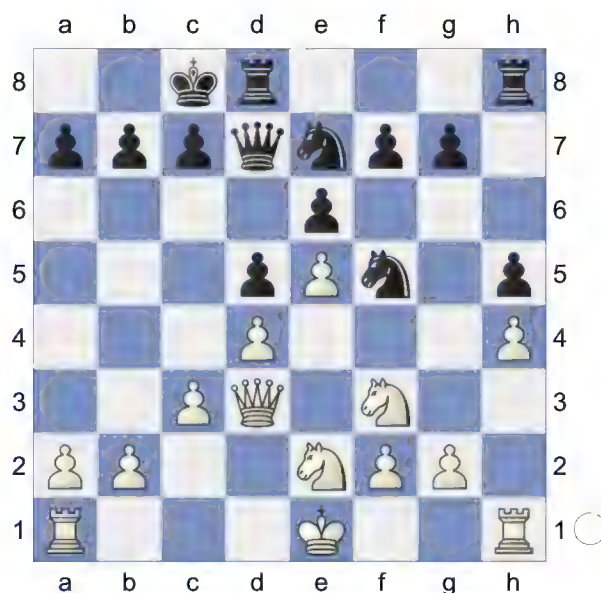
[11.Nf3 Bxg5 12.hxg5 0-0-0 13.Nf4 g6 14.b4 Kb8 15.0-0 h4 16.a4 h3 17.g3]

11...Ncxe7

[11...Qxe7]

12.Nf3 0-0-0 Diagram

[12...Rc8 13.g3 c5 14.0-0 0-0]

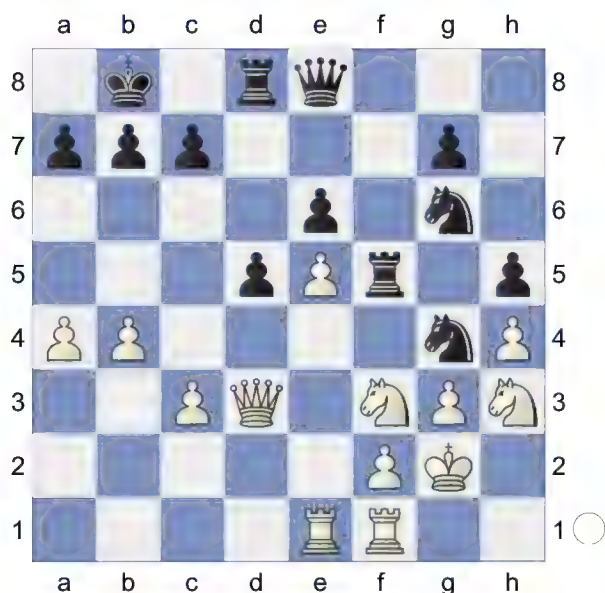


13.a4!

White is trying to make something out of the pin along the h2-b8 diagonal. 13...Ng6?! 14.g3 Now it is a

toss up. **14...f6 15.b4 Kb8 16.0-0 Rhf8?** A blunder! **17.Kh2!** White goes back the very same way he came forward.

[**17.a5 a6 18.Rae1 Rf7 19.Nc1**]
17...Qf7 18.Neg1 Nh6 19.Rae1
 Now White is simply up a pawn and has a crushing advantage. **19...Ng4+ 20.Kg2 fxe5 21.dxe5 Qe8 22.Nh3 Rf5** Diagram



23.Nhg5 Third time is the charm!

[**23.Qd1 Qd7** and White is in trouble. **24.a5 Rdf8 25.Nd4 Rxe5 26.Rxe5 N6xe5 27.Qe2 Qd6 28.a6**]

23...N6xe5 24.Nxe5 Nxe5 25.Qd4
 Now it is all over! **25...Nc6 26.Qd3**

[**26.Qxg7 e5 27.Qh7**]

26...Rf6

[**26...Qg6 27.Qd1 e5 28.b5 Na5 29.f4 exf4 30.Qb1 Qf6!** Black is somewhat better according to the engines but none of these moves are easy to find even in an over-the-board classical game let alone a rapid online game. Once again, the credit goes to Aronian for being so resourceful and introducing complications that are hard to deal

with even for a player of Artemiev's level. **31.Nh7?! Qf7 32.Ng5**]

27.b5

[**27.f4** Now the idea with Rh6 does not work. **d4 28.f5 e5 29.Ne6 Rxe6 30.fxe6** gives White some edge. **Qxe6 31.b5**]

27...Na5 28.Qh7

[**28.f4!** This was the only way for Artemiev to maintain his advantage.]

28...e5 29.Qxg7 Rf5 30.Qh7 Rf8

[**30...Rf6** And Black's compensation is more than enough as the bishop on g3 is still pretty bad.]

31.f4 e4 32.f5 Qe5

[**32...Rf6 33.Ne6 Rd7 34.Qg6**]

33.f6 Qxc3 34.f7 Nc4 35.Ne6 Qd2+ 36.Kh3 Ne5 37.Nxf8 Nf3 38.Nd7+ Ka8 39.Qxh5 Nxe1 40.f8Q

1-0

B00
 Stockfish Dc **3851**

LCZero v0.24-sv-t60-3010 **3840**

TCEC Season 17 Superfinal (71) 20.4.20
 [Justin Tan, Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 An early finish to the 'book moves', so the engines were on their own from here. Interestingly, both chose **2.d4** whereas both Kaufman and I recommend **2.Nf3**. **2.d4 d5** Much stronger than its counterpart **2...e5** which I examined last month as well (So - Vachier Lagrave). **3.e5! Bf5 4.c3 e6 5.Be2!?**

[**5.Nd2** see 1/2-1/2 (20) Anand,V (2783)-Rapport,R (2686) Germany 2018 [Justin Tan]]

5...f6! 6.f4

[6.Nf3 leaves the e5-pawn loose after fxe5 7.dxe5 Nge7 8.Bf4 -0.24/21 and here, most effective would be (8.Nbd2± 0.33/20) 8...h6 0.20/22 as (♭8...Ng6 -0.24/21 9.Bg3 h5) 9.h4?! -0.57/23 would clearly be too w e a k e n i n g . (White should try 9.Nbd2= 0.20/22) 9...Qd7]

6...g5! 7.Bh5+ Kd7!

[7...Bg6 1.14/23 7...Kd7 0.45 is not too convincing in this version. 8.Nh3 gxf4 9.Nxf4 fxe5 10.Bxg6+ hxd6 11.Nxg6 Rh7 12.dxe5↑]

8.fxd5 White is slightly better. 8...fxe5

9.Nf3 h6!? Benko style! 10.g4N

[10.dxe5 -1.04/19 10.Nxe5+ 0.34 hxd5 11.Bxg5 Be7 12.Bxe7 Ngxe7± -0.52/19 (12...Qxe7± -1.06/22 13.g4 Rxd5 14.gxh5 Bg4)]
[10.0-0?! hxd5!

A) 11.Bxg5?? -1.78/21 11.c4 0.00 accelerates Black's attack to the point that it is decisive. Be7 12.Bxe7 -2.54/23 (♭12.g4 -1.87/20 Rxd5 13.gxf5) 12...Ngxe7+ 13.Nxe5+ Nxe5 14.dxe5 Qg8! 15.Nd2 Qh7 16.g4? -4.66/23 (16.Rxf5 -2.80/22 keeps fighting. exf5 17.e6+ Decoy Kxe6 18.Qe2+ Kd7 19.Re1) 16...Rag8 17.Kh1 Rxg4+;

B) 11.c4! Kc8! 12.Nxg5 Nh6! 13.cxd5! Nxd4 0.30/22 (♭13...Qxd5 -0.26/23 14.g4 Bxb1 15.Rxb1 Nxd4) 14.Nxe6 -0.29/20 (♭14.dxe6 0.30/22 Bc2 15.Qe1) 14...Nxe6= 15.dxe6 Bc5+ 16.Kh1 Qxd1 17.Bxd1 Bxe6±;

C) 11.c4!= -0.24/20 dxc4 12.dxe5+ Bd3 13.Nxg5;

D) 11.Nxg5 -0.69/20 11...Bd6!± gives Black a dangerous initiative, for example

D1) 12.Nf7? -2.79/23

12.Bf7 -0.72 Qh4! is lethal. 13.Nxh8 exd4 14.g3 (14.h3 Qg3+) 14...Bxg3! 15.Qe2 (15.hxg3? -8.33/21 15.Qe2 -3.03 Qxg3+ 16.Kh1 Be4+ 17.Bf3 Nf6 18.Nf7 Rg8+) 15...d3! 16.Qg2? -4.26/20 (16.hxg3 -2.65/19 was the only defense. dxe2 17.gxh4 exf1Q+ 18.Kxf1) 16...Bd6+;

D2) ♭12.Bf7 -0.79/22 Nf6 13.Nxe6 Bxe6 14.Bxe6+ Kxe6 15.Bg5;

D3) 12.c4 -1.59/21 12...Nxd4± 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Nf7 Qh4! 15.Nxh8 Nf6 16.Nf7 Rg8!]

[10.Nxe5+!? Nxe5 11.dxe5= hxd5 12.g4 Rxd5 13.gxf5

A) 13...g4 14.fxe6+ Kc8 15.Bf4 Qh4+ 16.Ke2 g3 (16...Ne7 17.Rf1 Rf5 18.Bg3 Qh5 19.Nd2 b6 20.a4 a5 21.Qb3 Rxe5+ 22.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 23.Kd1 Kb7 24.Kc2 Nimzowitch'S Defense-2...d5) 17.Qxd5 Nf6 18.Qf3 g2 19.Rg1 Rf5 20.Bg3 Qh3 21.Qxg2 Qg4+ 22.Kd2 Bh6+ 23.Kc2 Rf3 24.Nd2 Qf5+ 25.Kb3 Qxe6+ 26.Nc4 Ne4 27.Be1 Nc5+ 28.Kc2 (37) Nimzowitch'S Defense-2...d5;

B) 13...Rh4 Nimzowitch'S Defense-2...d5]

[10.dxe5 hxd5 11.Bxg5 Be7 12.Bxe7 Qxe7±]

10...Be4

[It's a little simpler to exchange the bishop for the knight immediately with 10...Bxb1 11.Rxb1 e4 12.Nh4 0.15/27 (12.Ne5+± 0.64/23 Nxe5 13.dxe5) 12...Bd6 (12...hxg5 13.Ng6 Rh7! 14.0-0 Bd6 transposes.)

13.Ng6 Rh7 14.0-0 hxd5 15.Qe2
Rg7 16.Be3 Nge7! 17.Nf8+ Qxf8!
18.Rxf8 Rxf8 with the same position
as in the game except the rook is on
b1 rather than a1.]

11.Nbd2

[11.dxe5!? Bxf3! 12.Qxf3 Nxe5!
and Black probably has enough play
to maintain the balance. One thing's
for sure, the position is a mess.
(12...hxd5?! 0.45/21 12...Nxe5 -0.03
appears to give White a strong
initiative: 13.Qe2 Bg7 14.Nd2 Bxe5
15.Nf3 Bf4 16.b4! Qf6 17.0-0 Nge7
18.Bxf4 gxf4 19.b5±) 13.Qe2 Bd6
14.h4 (14.Be3 -0.36/18 14.h4 0.23
Nc4!∞) 14...Qe7 15.Bf4 (15.Qb5+?!
Nc6!) 15...Nc4 16.Bxd6 cxd6 17.Nd2
hxd5 18.Nxc4 dxc4 19.hxd5 Qxd5
20.Be8+! Rxe8 21.Rxh8 d5=]

[11.Nxe5+? Nxe5 12.0-0 Nc4-+]

11...Bxf3 12.Nxf3

[12.Qxf3 hxd5 13.Rf1 exd4=]

12...e4 13.Nh4 hxd5 14.Ng6 Rh7!

15.0-0 White has compensation.

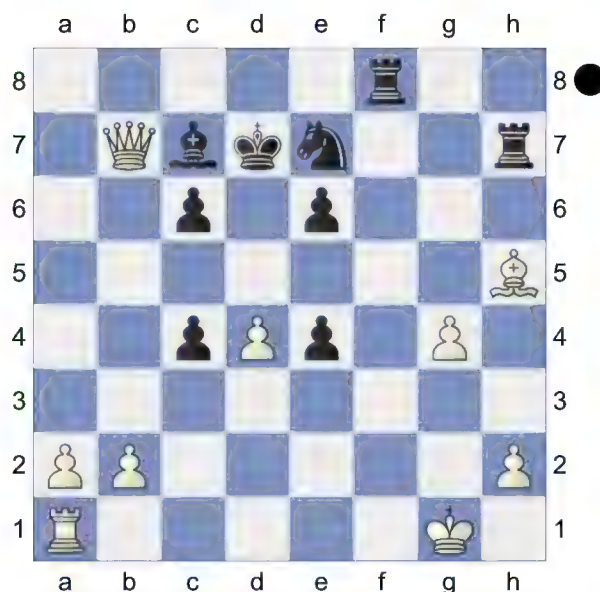
[15.Qe2 Bd6 16.Be3? -0.87/23
(16.0-0= 0.22/20 remains equal.)
16...Nge7! 17.Bxd5 Qg8=]

15...Bd6 16.Qe2

[16.c4 is still met by Nge7 17.Nf8+
(17.c5?? -4.08/20 17.Rf8 0.00 Bxh2+
18.Kxh2 Nxd6) 17...Qxf8! 18.Rxf8
Rxf8 19.Bxd5 (19.cxd5?! -1.27/20
19.Bxd5 -0.16 Nxd5 aiming for ...
Rh8. 20.Bxd5 Rg8 21.h4
The bishop was pinned due to ...Rxh5
in the event that it moved.) 19...dxc4

A) 20.Bxe7 -0.53/21 20.Qb1 0.00
Nxe7 21.Qa4+ -0.75/22 (21.Qe2!=
-0.28/21 Nd5 22.Rf1 Rxf1+
23.Qxf1) 21...c6! 22.Qxa7 Bc7!
tactically defends the pawn as

23.Qxb7 -1.50/21 (23.Rf1=
-0.63/21 Bxh2+ 24.Kxh2 Rxf1
25.Qxb7+ Kd8 26.Qb8+ Nc8
27.Qe5)



would fail to 23...Rg8! (first forcing the king to h1, ...Rxh5 is threatened) 24.Kh1 Rb8 25.Qa7 Rxb2-;

B) 20.Qb1! Nxd4! 21.Kg2!
(21.Qxe4?? -4.08/23 21.Kg2 0.00
Nf3+) 21...Nf3 22.Bxe7 Kxe7
23.Qxe4 Rg7 24.Qxc4 Rg5=]

16...a6

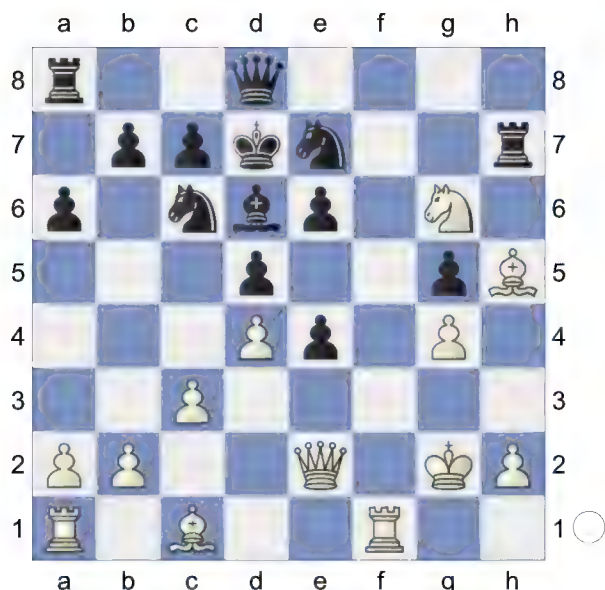
[The immediate 16...Rg7 is more natural. Next is ...Nge7 as in the game.]

17.Kg2 Rg7! An instructive and key idea!

[Black wants to play 17...Nge7? 1.50/24 17...Rg7 -0.14

(Diagram)

but that would be a mistake here because of 18.Nf8+! Qxf8 19.Rxf8 Rxf8 20.Bxd5 Rg8 21.h4+- Thus, she first prepares the queen sacrifice by defending g5.]



18.Be3 Nge7 19.Nf8+

[19.Bxg5?! is met by the sneaky Qg8! 20.Nxe7! Nxe7 21.Bf6 (21.Bxe7?! -1.72/22 21.Bf6 -0.46 Rxe7 followed by ...Rh7. It is astonishing to me that my engine assesses this position to be decisive for Black. The theory that opposite-coloured bishops favour the attacker holds true! Black has ideas such as ... Qg5-h4 and bringing both rooks to the kingside. Meanwhile the bishop on h5 remains a problem piece.) 21...Rh7 22.Kh1! Rf8 To me, this honestly doesn't look so clear. My engine initially gave Black a large advantage but it wasn't able to prove it too convincingly. After. Hoping for ...Ng6. 23.Rf2! (pre-empting ...Ng6)

A) Black can also keep the tension with 23...Kc8 White should prevent ...Nf5! 24.Raf1 -0.70/24 (24.Rg1= -0.30/24) 24...Kb8 -0.08/22 (24...Nf5! 25.gxf5 Rxf6 26.fxe6 Rxf2 27.Rxf2 Rg7);

B) 23...Nf5!? literally springs to mind but 24.gxf5 Rxf6 25.fxe6+!

Kxe6 White must now prevent ... Rxf2. 26.Rxf6+ Kxf6 27.Rg1 probably leads to a draw. Still, this is a dubious continuation for White as it puts him on the defending side of the draw. Against Qg5]

[19.Bxg5 Qg8 20.Nxe7 Bxe7±]

[19.Rf8 Qxf8 20.Nxf8+ Rxf8±]

19...Qxf8! 20.Rxf8 Rxf8 21.Rf1

Chess con chili. 21...Bf4! 22.h4 Rh8

[22...e5!? also appears to be possible and it's the move I'd recommend for over the board games.

A) 23.dxe5 Nxe5 24.hxg5 Nd3;

B) 23.Rf2 0.00/28 23.dxe5 0.51 Rh8 24.Kf1 Bxe3 25.Qxe3 exd4 26.cxd4 gxh4 27.Rf6 Nd8 28.Qh3 And now g5+ would win. Ne6 29.g5 -0.58/21 (29.b4= -0.20/24 is more appropriate.) 29...Rhx5;

C) 23.hxg5 Nf5!

C1) 24.gxf5 Rxg5+ 25.Kf2 Bg4 is the strong threat. Bg3+ 26.Kg1 (26.Kg2!? Bf4+□ 27.Kf2 Bg3+ 28.Kg2 Bf4+=) 26...Bf4+;

C2) 24.Bxf4 exf4 25.Rxf4 Nfxd4!]

23.hxg5

[23.Kh3 keeps more tension. Bxe3 24.Qxe3 Nf5 25.gxf5 Rxh5 26.fxe6+ Kxe6 27.Qg3]

23...Bxg5 24.Bxg5 Rxg5 25.Kf2! Nf5!? 26.Ke1!

[not 26.gxf5?? -2.15/24 26.Ke1 -0.05 Rxf5+ 27.Ke1 Rfxh5-+]

26...Nce7 27.Qf2 Repels Ng3

[27.gxf5 allows exf5!? (27...Rhxh5=)]

27...Rhxh5! 28.gxh5 Rxh5=

Of course, Leela does not get nervous about sacrificing more material. If it's a draw, it's a draw! I'd be interested to know the percentages when it comes to

human games here. I'm sure there'd be at least a couple games where White mishandles the position and ends up worse. 29.Kd1 Rh4 30.a3 Ng6 31.Kc1

[31.a4 simplifies Rf4 32.Qxf4 Nxf4 33.Rxf4 b6 34.b4]

31...e3 32.Qg1 Nf4 You get the impression Leela is pressing already. Excellent horsemanship. 33.Kc2 e2 34.Re1 Rg4 Decoy 35.Qf2 a5 Still finding the time to improve the position. 36.b3

[36.Rxe2? Nxe2 37.Kb1 (37.Qxe2? Rg2+- Decoy) 37...Re4+-]

36...b6 37.Qf3 Rh4 38.a4 Kc8 39.Rxe2 Nxe2 40.Qxe2 Endgame. and the engines shuffled on and on to a clear draw. KQ-KRN 40...Re4 41.Qh5 Kb7 42.Qg6 Nd6 43.Kd2 Nf5 44.Qf7 Nd6 45.Qd7 Kb8 46.Qd8+ Kb7 47.Qd7 e5 48.Qe6 exd4 49.Qxd5+ Kb8 50.cxd4 Re8 51.Kc2 Rd8 52.Kd3 Nb7 53.Qb5 Rd6 54.Qe8+ Nd8 55.Kc4 Ka7 56.b4 axb4 57.d5 Nb7 58.Qe5 Nc5 59.a5 Na6 60.Qd4 Rg6 61.axb6+ Rxb6 62.d6 cxd6 63.Qg7+ Kb8 64.Qf8+ Kb7 65.Qe7+ Kc6 66.Qe4+ Kc7 67.Qe7+ Kc6 68.Qe4+ Kc7 69.Qh7+ Kb8 70.Qg8+ Kb7 71.Qd5+ Ka7 72.Qf7+ Ka8 73.Kb3 Nc5+ 74.Kb2 Kb8 75.Kb1 b3 76.Qe7 Rc6 77.Qd8+ Kb7 78.Kb2 Rb6 79.Kb1 Ka6 80.Qc8+ Kb5 81.Qe8+ Kb4 82.Qe1+ Ka4 83.Qd2 Ka3 84.Qc1+ Ka4 85.Qd1 Kb4 86.Qc1 Na4 87.Qd2+ Kb5 88.Qd3+ Kc5 89.Qe3+ Kc4 90.Qc1+ Kb5 91.Qd2 Nc5 92.Qe2+ Kb4 93.Qd1 Ka3 94.Qc1+ Kb4 95.Qd1 Na4 96.Qd4+ Ka3 97.Qa1+ Kb4 98.Qd4+ Ka5 99.Qd5+ Nc5 100.Qd2+ Kb5 101.Qe2+ Kc6 102.Qe8+ Kb7 103.Qd8 Ka6 104.Qc8+ Kb5 105.Qf5

Rb7 106.Qf1+ Kc6 107.Qf8 d5 108.Qf6+ Kb5 109.Qf1+ Kb4 110.Qe1+ Ka4 111.Qc1 Rb5 112.Qd1 Ne4 113.Kb2 Wards off Nc3 113...Ka5 114.Qa1+ Kb6 115.Qa3 Nc5 116.Qa8 Kc7 117.Qe8 Rb7 118.Qe7+ Kc6 119.Qe8+ Rd7 120.Kc3 Kb7 121.Qe1 Kc6 122.Qe8 Kc7 123.Qe1 Kd6 124.Qg3+ Kc6 125.Qe5 Rd8 126.Qf6+ Rd6 127.Qf8 Kb5 128.Qf1+ Kb6 129.Qf4 Kc6 130.Qf8 Kb5 131.Qf1+ Kb6 132.Kb4 Rc6 133.Qb5+ Kc7 134.Qa5+!

[134.Ka3 Ra6+ 135.Kb2 (135.Kb4 Rb6) 135...Ra2+ 136.Kc3 Rc2+ 137.Kd4 b2 138.Kxd5 Nd3]

134...Kb7 135.Kc3! d4+ 136.Kb2! d3 137.Kc3 Kc8 138.Qb5 Kc7 139.Kd2 Kd6 140.Kc3 Kc7 141.Kb2 Kd6

[141...d2!? 142.Qa5+□ Kd7 143.Qxd2+ Rd6=]

142.Qb8+ Rc7 143.Qb6+ Kd7 144.Qh6 Kc8 145.Qg5 Kb7 146.Qd5+ Kb6 147.Qd8 Kb7 148.Qd6 Rc8 149.Ka3 Rc6 150.Qd5 Kb6 151.Qd8+ Rc7 152.Qd6+ Kb7 153.Kb2 Rc8 154.Ka3 Rc6 155.Qe5 Ka7

[155...Kb6!?]

156.Qe7+ Ka6 157.Qf8 Ka7 158.Qe7+ Ka6 159.Qf8 Kb7 160.Qf2? -1.70/27

[160.Kb2= 0.00/35 and White is okay.]

160...Ka7? 0.00/36

[160...Ra6+-+ -1.70/27 161.Kb4 Rc6]

161.Kb2 The position is equal. 161...Ka6 162.Qf8 Kb6 163.Qd8+ Ka6 164.Qa8+ Kb6 165.Kc3 Rc7 166.Qb8+ Kc6 167.Qf8 Kb7 168.Qf5 Kb6 169.Qf2 Kb5 170.Qh4! Rc8 171.Qb4+ Kc6 172.Kc4 Kd6 173.Kd4 Ke6 174.Qb6+ Kd7 175.Qb5+ Kd6 176.Qb6+ Kd7 177.Kd5 Rc7

[177...d2!? 178.Qd6+□ Ke8
179.Qe5+ Kd8=]

**178.Qa5 Kd8 179.Qa8+ Rc8 180.Qa1
d2 181.Qd4 Rc7 182.Qh8+!**

[182.Kc4+? Rd7 183.Qh8+ Kc7-+]

182...Ke7

[182...Kd7!? 183.Qh3+□ Ke8
(183...Kd8 184.Qh8+ Kd7 185.Qh3+
Ke7 186.Qh7+ Ke8 187.Qh8+ Ke7
188.Qh7+ Kf8 189.Qh8+ Ke7
190.Qe5+ Kd7 191.Qf5+ Ke8
192.Qh5+ Rf7 193.Kxc5=) 184.Qh8+
Kf7 185.Qh5+ Kg7 186.Qe5+ Kg8
187.Qg5+ Rg7 188.Qd8+ Kh7
189.Kxc5 Rg5+ 190.Kb4 (190.Qxg5
d1Q=) 190...b2 191.Qe7+
(191.Qxg5 b1Q+ 192.Kc3 Qc1+
193.Kb4 d1Q 194.Qf5+ Kh6
195.Qf6+ Kh5 196.Qf7+ Kh4
197.Qh7+ Kg3 198.Qg8+ Qg4+
199.Qxg4+ Kxg4 200.Kb5 Kf4
201.Kb4 Ke5 202.Kb5 Qc2 203.Kb4
Kd5 204.Ka3 Qb1 205.Ka4 Kc4
206.Ka5 Qb5#) 191...Kg6 192.Qd6+
Kh5=]

**183.Qg7+ Ke8 184.Qe5+ Kd7
185.Qf5+ Kd8 186.Qf8+ Kd7**

187.Qf5+ Ke7

[187...Kd8!? 188.Qf8+□ Kd7
189.Qf5+=]

188.Qg5+ Ke8 189.Qg6+ Kd8

190.Qg8+ Kd7 191.Qg4+ Ke8

[191...Kd8!? 192.Qg8+□ Ke7
193.Qg5+ Kf7 194.Qh5+ Kf8
195.Qh8+ Kf7 196.Qh5+ Kf8
197.Qh8+ Kf7 198.Qh7+ Ke8
199.Qg8+ Ke7 200.Qg7+ Ke8
201.Qh8+ Ke7 202.Qg7+=]

192.Qg6+ Rf7

[192...Kd8!? 193.Qg8+□ Kd7
194.Qg4+ Ke8 195.Qg8+ Ke7
196.Qg7+ Kd8 197.Qg8+=]

193.Qg8+ Ke7 194.Qg5+ Rf6

**195.Qg7+ Rf7 196.Qe5+ Kd8
197.Qb8+**

[197.Kxc5 d1Q (197...d1B
198.Qb8+ Kd7 199.Qb5+ Ke7
200.Qc6=) 198.Qb8+ Ke7 199.Qe5+
Kd7 200.Kb4 b2 (200...Qd6+
gets mated. 201.Qxd6+ Kxd6
202.Kxb3 Kc5 203.Kc3 Rd7
204.Kb3 Rd3+ 205.Kc2 Kc4
206.Kb2 Rd2+ 207.Kc1 Kc3
208.Kb1 Rd1+ 209.Ka2 Rh1
210.Ka3 Ra1#) 201.Qb5+ Kc8
202.Qe8+ Qd8 203.Qe6+ Rd7
204.Qc6+ Qc7 205.Qa8+ Qb8+
206.Qxb8+ Kxb8 207.Kc3 b1Q
(207...b1B 208.Kb3 Rc7 209.Kb2
Bh7 210.Ka3 Rc2 211.Ka4 Bg8
212.Kb4 Kc7 213.Ka4 Kb6 214.Kb4
Bf7 215.Ka3 Kc5 216.Ka4 Ra2#)
208.Kc4 Qc2+ 209.Kb5 Rb7+
210.Ka6 Qa4#]

197...Kd7 198.Qd6+ Ke8 (-> ...Rd7)

199.Kxc5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.02
(flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)

1/2-1/2

B00

□ **LCZero v0.24-sv-t60-3010 3840**

■ **Stockfish Dc 3851**

TCEC Season 17 Superfinal (72.1)

[D Fernandez, Kitty Kat]

**B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence**

1.e4 Nc6 A sometimes-neglected move
that will be the subject of a forthcoming
book by French GM Christian Bauer.
2.d4 d5 3.e5! Bf5! 4.c3 It seems clear
enough that White wants to play neither
Nc3 nor c4. The b1-knight is probably
going to d2, but we don't yet know about

the other minor pieces, and so this is the developing move that keeps most flexibility. **4...e6 5.Bd3?! A** slightly simplistic move to my mind, as (similarly to the Short system of the Caro-Kann) Black runs into more issues if White leaves him more pieces on the kingside for which to try and find squares. While the database shows no shortage of games for this line, the majority of serious games seem to feature grandmasters on the Black side, slowly grinding down their lower-rated opposition in highly static encounters. So in what follows I'm trying to reason things out from first principles.

[**5.Nd2!** Justin suggested that this was joint best in his annotations to Anand-Rapport, Bundesliga 2018 (June 2020 update.) **f6 6.f4 g5! 7.Qh5+ (7.Bb5!?** is more intuitive but leads to a mess after the obvious **gxf4** .) Of course it would be great for my reputation as a maverick if **7...Kd7!** equalised, but it doesn't quite. Still, I think it is the most interesting way for Black to play. (To summarise Justin's conclusions, after **7...Bg6 8.Qh3 Qd7 9.Ngf3 gxf4 10.Bb5 0-0-0 11.Nh4!** White will soon regain the pawn with **Nb3** or **Ndf3**, and with his extra space he should have a persistent small plus.) **8.Ndf3!?** **Bg6 (8...gxf4 9.Bxf4±** White will always have a safe edge here due to his control of the e5-square.) **9.Qh3** and at this point, I'll refer you to Tan-Fernandez from this month (the B00 one!) for further details.]

[The counterpart games proceeded with **5.Be2!?** which I shall leave entirely to my co-author.]

[**5.Ne2 Nge7 6.Nf4 Qd7 7.Nd2 Bg6**

8.Nb3 b6 9.a4 f6 10.a5 Bf7 11.Bb5 0-0-0 12.Nd3 B 00/09-N,N 2000]

5...Bxd3N Pure bean-counting could somehow lead you to believe this was the better move, but Black ends up in all sorts of slightly uninspiring positions after this.

[**5...Nge7!** This is the majority choice among human players, and honestly I think the text move borders on unintelligible by comparison.

A) 6.Bg5 would be the Caro-inspired choice, but I think the bishop belongs on c1 for the time being. Thematic therefore would be **Bxd3 (6...Qd7 7.Ne2 h6 8.Bxe7 Nxe7 9.Ng3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 c5 11.0-0 h5 12.Nd2 Nc6 13.Ne2 0-0-0 14.a3 c4 15.Qc2 Na5 16.Nc1 Kb8 17.b4 cxb3 18.Ncxb3 Qa4 19.Rfb1 Rd7 20.Ra2 Be7 21.Nc5 1-0 (45) 6.♗c6 bc6 7.e5 ♗d5 8. ♗d (2600)-Korsunsky,R (2495) 83/324 Wijk aan Zee 2002 (1)) 7.Qxd3 Qd7!=** followed by ... **Nf5** and only then . ..**h6**, not even giving White the chance to justify the bishop's deployment by playing **Bxe7**.;

B) 6.Nf3 -0.13/21 6.Ne2 0.55 at least admits that White has been move-ordered.;

C) 6.Ne2

C1) 6...Qd7 7.0-0 Bxd3 8.Qxd3 Nf5 9.g4 (9.Nd2!±) 9...Nh4 10.Ng3 -0.09/22 (10.Bg5± 0.36/24 Be7 11.Bxh4 Bxh4 12.f4) 10...0-0-0 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Bxh4 Bxh4 Black was probably relatively happy with the outcome of the opening in Arutinian,D-Gelashvili,T Batumi 2002, and went on to win.;

C2) 6...f6!? I think there is still some capital to be extracted from delaying the trade on d3. 7.f4 h5 (7...Qd7 8.Ng3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 h5 10.Nd2 0-0-0 11.b4 h4 12.Ne2 Nf5 13.Nb3 Rg8 14.Rb1 g5 15.b5 Nb8 16.fxg5 fxg5 17.Bd2 Qh7 18.a4 Rd7 19.Rc1 Rf7 20.a5 Ba3 21.Ra1 Rgf8 22.Nbc1 (47) 2.d4 d5 3. exd5 and 3.e5) 8.0-0 Qd7

C2a) The other way to try and complete development without loss of time is 9.Na3 0-0-0 10.Nc2 and now I like Be4!? 11.b4 0.42/21 (11.Ne3± 0.85/22) 11...Nf5⇒ for Black.;

C2b) 9.b4!? This push seems to be the most constructive thing White can do if his opponent's moves don't suggest another obvious course of action. But of course it also creates some weaknesses on the queenside, whither Black has as yet not castled. 9...h4

C2b1) 10.a4 Bxd3 (10...h3! is given by modern engines) 11.Qxd3 a5 0.95/21 (11...Nf5± 0.49/19) 12.b5± Nd8!? A different knight route makes sense against 10.h3 but here this is surely fine. 13.Nd2 Nf7⇒ Gurbanov,F-Gelashvili,T Baku 2008;

C2b2) 10.h3 a5!? (10...Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Nf5 looks strategically quite nice as well.) 11.b5 Na7!⇒ One advantage of delaying long castling is that Black

can often establish a second outpost on c4. Realistically that will probably lead to the trading of both pairs of knights and approximate equality.]

6.Qxd3 Qd7 7.Nd2!± White's optimum strategy probably does still involve playing f4, but it's wise not to do so until Black has committed to ...f6. At the 3800 level, I think it's fair to say that Black's lost his chance to equalise out of the opening! Certainly, as implied above, I think Black's been move-ordered if he allows this rather than forcing White to keep the line d1-d3 open.

[After 7.f4 0.00/26 7.Ne2 0.45 Black should give up on undermining the centre by means of ...f6, and just play something like Nce7! with the plan of ...h5 and a (slow preparation of) ...c5.]

7...f6 If Black wants to avoid this move, it's not clear what else he can do. A human would try and think through it logically and figure out which White next moves work worst in combination with f4, and try and provoke those. Having tried to do exactly that I think ...f6 is still best.

[In light of the fact that Leela soon played b4 in the game, it seems rational to think about 7...a5 . But my conclusion is that given Black's eventual desire to castle queenside, it doesn't make sense to push pawns there. For example, after 8.Ne2 Nge7 9.0-0 f6 10.f4 h5 11.a4± there is little Black can do against either b4 or g4 happening eventually.]

[7...Nce7!? 8.Ne2± I checked a

number of moves, of which this seems like the most intuitive. The point being that if Black doesn't play ...f6 White can get organized with say Nf1-g3, and be prepared to trade one or both of the enemy knights (preferably involving Bg5xe7 at some stage.) Of course, if Black does play ...f6 then the normal reply f4 is still legal.]

8.f4 White is slightly better. **8...g5!?** Otherwise White is simply better on static grounds (Ndf3, Ne2 etc.) **9.Nh3** This move doesn't look all that illogical but actually it's a very double-edged call. White's pretty much decided to not only allow but even encourage ...g4 and the formation of a light-squared pawn barricade on the kingside.

[Personally I think the cleanest way to proceed was 9.Qe2! with the idea of resolving the central tension somehow on the very next move. 0-0-0 (9...gxf4 10.Ndf3!± is unenviable as always for Black.) 10.fxg5 fxe5 11.dxe5 d4 12.Ngf3± Black's counterplay is yet to assume really serious proportions since in many cases White can simply castle out of trouble. Another recurring theme in the lines from here is Ne4-f6.]

9...0-0-0 10.0-0 g4 11.Nf2 h5= The two attacks are matched, tempo for tempo. I couldn't find any way whatsoever for White to make use of what seems (optically) to be better coordination. **12.b4 Nce7 13.Nd1** Leela shows its preference for improving the worst-placed piece. After playing this it's obvious that Black can't open the kingside by pawn breaks alone, so Stockfish changes tack somewhat.

[In a line like 13.a4!?

A) 13...Kb8 doesn't work so well as in the game because White's a tempo up. After 14.b5 Rc8 15.Nb3! And now Nc5 would win. Nf5 16.c4± -0.20/19 the centre opens in his favour. (16.Nd1± 0.34/22);

B) 13...Nf5 14.b5 0.01/23 (White should play 14.Nd1!± 0.59/21) 14...Ngh6 0.51/24 (Better is 14...fxe5= 0.01/23 15.fxe5 Ngh6) 15.a5 -0.23/24 urgency almost compels Black to sacrifice a pawn with (15.Nd1!± 0.51/24) 15...g3!?∞ when it isn't clear whether the f2-knight has become a target or whether it helps in the defence.]

13...Nf5 14.Nb3 Ngh6 15.a4 Now White throws the pawns forwards, but Black is in time with a reactive (rather than counterattacking) approach.

[It is certainly counterproductive to play something like 15.exf6 -0.55/21 15.Bd2 0.48 with both knights so distant from the e5-square.]

15...Kb8! Exactly when White was ready to play b6 in three moves, the prophylaxis begins. The c7-pawn needs to not be there at the point when White is ready to start causing trouble. **16.b5**

[16.exf6 Ng8̄]

16...Rc8! 17.a5

[My human instinct was 17.Ba3 which isn't bad at all, but after fxe5 18.fxe5 Bxa3 19.Rxa3 Rcf8± there may not be enough to attack with, and in some lines where the d1-knight leaves its post Black also has the surprising resource ...g3, (h3), . ..Ng4! to get his other knight playing a bigger role.]

17...c5! Because b6 posed an existential threat at this point. **18.dxc5** The right capture. Leela's moves are quite easy to understand and rationalize around here, but it (she?!) simply didn't get a better position after around move 10. With the idea Be3.

[Following 18.bxc6 Rxc6⇒ it seems to be rather White's queenside that is the liability.]

18...fxe5

[For a human player (such as myself!) clicking through these lines, there's definitely a temptation to try and keep the f8-bishop alive with 18...Rxc5!? but this isn't the best move. ...fxe5! would now be deadly.

A) 19.Be3!? -0.37/20 19.Ne3 0.27 Rxb5 20.Nd4±;

B) 19.Nd4 Nxd4 20.cxd4 Qxb5±;

C) 19.Nxc5?? Bxc5+ 20.Kh1 -2.56/25 (20.Nf2± -1.26/19 g3 21.hxg3) 20...Qh7!! and amazingly Black is completely winning!;

D) 19.Ne3! fxe5 0.88/19 (19...Rxb5= 0.30/19 20.c4 Rb4) 20.fxe5± Rxb5 21.c4!

Sadly nothing works for Black here. In particular Rxb3 22.Qxb3 Bc5 aiming for ...dxc4. 23.cxd5 h4! looks like some kind of attempt but White can just reply with 24.dxe6± 0.52/20 . (24.Rb1± 0.97/20 Qxd5 25.Qxd5 exd5 26.Rb3)]

19.fxe5 Bxc5+ 20.Nxc5 Rxc5
21.Bxh6 Nxh6

[Interestingly after 21...Rxh6?? 2.97/22 21...Nxh6 0.18 White has 22.Rxf5! exf5 23.Qe3 forking the rooks- a tactic almost as spectacular as ...Qh7! above.]

22.Ne3! White still has some interesting long-range attacking ideas here (due to

the contrast in quality of knights) but the machines are resolute in giving 0. 00. **22...Qc8!** A little 'dance' to avoid b6 with tempo while still gaining one off the a5-pawn.

[22...Qxb5?! 23.c4! dxc4 24.Qd6+ Rc7 ...Qc5 is the strong threat. 25.Rf8+ Rxf8 26.Qxf8+ Rc8 27.Qxh6 Qxe5 28.Nc2±]

[22...Rxb5?! 23.c4! Rc5 24.cxd5±]

23.Rac1 Qc7 24.Qd4 g3 25.Rf6!?

To a human this looks like some kind of domination, but it turns out there's no problem and Black can just liquidate by taking the knight out to g4 after having taken on h2.

[25.h3!? 0.00/23 25.Rf6 0.40 seems like it solves the kingside issues, but in fact Black's intention wasn't that so much as the back rank counterplay he gains after Rc8! 26.Rf6 -0.40/18 (26.a6= 0.00/23) 26...Rxc3∞ . So there is no way to keep the admittedly unaesthetic knight on h6 locked in its 'stable'.]

25...Rxb5

[25...gxh2+ 26.Kh1±]

26.Rcf1 gxh2+ 27.Kh1! Qc5
Wards off Rf8+ 28.Qf4 Ng4 29.Nxg4 hxg4

Analysing computer chess quite quickly leads to a feeling of being a bit jaded: a human game here would almost always be decisive, but the 0.00 fatigue sets in and one is tempted to start seeing the draw as inevitable...

30.a6!? In common with its 'alpha' cousin, Leela tries to set practical problems even at the engine level by hitting at Black's pawn cover.

[After the greedy 30.Qxg4 Black must now prevent Qg7. a6! 31.Qxe6= Black may choose which pawn to take for his 0.00 as his king safety is

relatively assured.]

30...Rb6

[30...bxa6 31.Rxe6 (31.Qxg4 Qc8=) 31...a5 (31...Qc4? 32.Qxc4 dxc4 33.Re1-+) 32.Qxg4±]

[30...Qxc3? 31.Rf8+-]

31.axb7 Rg8!? Forcing White to take some time out to deal with the possibility of his king being shut in for life.

[31...Kxb7 32.Qxg4±]

32.Qh6 g3 33.Qh7 Re8 34.Qg7 Rb3

[34...Qxc3 35.Rf8 Qc7 36.Rxe8+ Kxb7 37.Re7 (37.Qxg3 Ra6+-; 37.Qxg3 a5+-)]

35.Qxg3 Rxc3 From here onwards there is no possibility of an engine game ending other than in a draw. I do still find it fascinating though how both sides avoid repetitions! **36.Qg6**

[36.Qxh2?! Rc1± (36...Kxb7 37.Qh5=)]

36...Qe7 37.Rf7

[37.Kxh2 Rh8+ (37...Kxb7? 38.Rf7+- Pin) 38.Kg1 a5 (38...Kxb7? 39.Rf7+- Pin)]

37...Qd8 38.R7f6 Qe7 39.R6f2

[39.Kxh2 Rh8+ (39...Kxb7? 40.Rf7+- Pin) 40.Kg1 Qc5+ (40...Kxb7? 41.Rf7+-) 41.R6f2 Rf8 (41...Kxb7? 42.Qg7+ Ka6 43.Qxh8+-)]

39...Rc6 40.Rf5 Rh8

[40...exf5?! 41.Qxc6 Qe6 42.Qc2±]

41.Rf7 Qd8 42.R7f6 Qe7 43.Rf7 Qd8

44.Qg7 Rg8 45.Qh6 Qb6

[45...Qg5 46.Rf8+ Kxb7 47.Qh7+ Rg7 48.R8f7+ Rxf7 49.Rxf7+ Kb6 50.Qb1+ Kc5 51.Qc2+ Kd4 52.Qxc6+-]

46.Rd7 Qf8+! would kill now.

[46.Qxh2 Qb2±]

46...Re8 47.Qg6

[47.Qxh2 Qf2 48.Rg1 (48.Rxf2 Rc1+) 48...a5]

[47.Qf8? Qg1+ 48.Rxg1 hxg1Q+ (48...Rxf8 49.Kxh2 Rg8 50.g4=; 48...hxg1R+? 49.Kxg1 Rxf8 50.Rh7+-) 49.Kxg1 Rxf8+-]

47...Rd8 48.Re7 d4 49.Rb1

[49.Kxh2 Qc5 50.Re8 Qxe5+ 51.Kg1 Qd6]

49...Qa5 50.Re8 White threatens Qg8 and mate. Dancing on a razor blade.

50...Qc7 51.Rf1 Qb6

[51...Kxb7? 52.Rf7 Rc1+ 53.Kxh2+-]

52.Rxd8+ Qxd8 Endgame. KQR-KQR

53.Qf6

[53.Qg7!? Rc7□ 54.Qh6=]

53...Qb6

[53...Qxf6? 54.exf6 Kxb7 55.f7+- (55.Kxh2 Rc8+-)]

54.Qh8+ Kxb7 55.Qh7+ Rc7 56.Qe4+

Qc6! 57.Rb1+ Ka8 58.Qxd4 Rc8

59.Ra1 Qb7 60.Qf2 a6 61.Rd1 a5

62.Qa2 Qa6 63.Qf2 Qb5 64.Qf3+ Qc6

65.Qf6 Qc2 66.Ra1 Qc3! 67.Rd1 Qc2

68.Qf1 Ka7 Wards off Qa6+ 69.Ra1

[69.Kxh2? Rh8+ 70.Kg3 Qg6+ 71.Kf2 Rf8+ 72.Kg1 Rxf1+-+]

69...Qc3 70.Qf2+ Ka8 71.Rd1 Qc7

Repels Qb6 72.Qf3+ Qc6 73.Qa3

[73.Qxc6+ simplifies Rxc6 74.Kxh2 Rc5 75.Re1]

73...Qb5 74.Qd6

[74.Kxh2 Rh8+ (74...Qxe5+ 75.Kg1±) 75.Kg3 Qxe5+ 76.Kf2 Rb8±]

74...Qc6 75.Qa3

[75.Qxc6+ simplifies Rxc6 76.Kxh2 Rc5 77.Kh3]

75...Qc7 76.Qe3

[76.Kxh2 Rh8+ (76...Qxe5+ 77.Kg1±) 77.Kg3 Qxe5+ 78.Kf2 Qf5+ 79.Qf3+ Qxf3+ 80.gxf3 Kb7]

76...Rg8 77.Qe2 Qb6 Against Qa6+ 78.Qe4+ Qb7 79.Qe2 Qb6 80.Qf3+ Qb7 81.Qf1 Qb6 82.Qf3+ Qb7 83.Qf2 Rb8 84.Qa2

[84.Qc5 simplifies Qb6 85.Qxb6 Rxb6 86.Kxh2 Rb5 87.g4]

84...Qa6 85.Qd2 Qb5 86.Ra1

[86.Kxh2 Qxe5+ 87.Kg1 Rb2]

[86.Qd6 simplifies Qb6 87.Qxb6 Rxb6 88.Kxh2 Rb5 89.Kh3]

86...Kb7!

[86...a4 87.Qf4 (87.Kxh2 Qxe5+ 88.Kh3 Rh8+ 89.Kg4 Rg8+ 90.Kf3 Qg3+ 91.Ke2 Qxg2+ 92.Ke1 Qh1+ 93.Ke2 Rg2+ 94.Kd3 Rxd2+ 95.Kxd2 Qxa1 96.Kd3 a3 97.Ke4 a2 98.Ke3 Qe5+ 99.Kf3 a1Q 100.Kg2 Qe3 101.Kh2 Qag1#) 87...Rb6 88.Rxa4+ (88.Qxa4+ Qxa4 89.Rxa4+ Kb7=) 88...Ra6 89.Qe4+ Ka7 90.Rb4+-]

87.Qd6 Qb6 88.Qd3 Ka7 89.Qc3 Kb7 90.Rc1

[90.Kxh2 Qb4 91.Qf3+ Ka7 92.Qe3+ Ka6]

90...Ka7 91.Ra1

[91.Kxh2 Rh8+ 92.Kg3 Rb8]

91...Kb7 92.Qd3

[92.Kxh2 Rh8+ 93.Kg3 Rg8+ 94.Kh3 Rh8+ 95.Kg4 Rc8 (95...Qb4+ 96.Qxb4+ axb4 97.Rb1=) 96.Qf3+ (96.Qxa5 Qd4+ 97.Kg5 Qe3+ 98.Kg6 Qg3+ 99.Kf6 Qf4+ 100.Ke7 Qg5+ 101.Kd6 Rc6+ 102.Kd7 Qg7+ 103.Ke8 Rc8+) 96...Ka6]

92...Qc7 93.Qb3+

[93.Kxh2? Rh8+ (93...Qxe5+? 94.g3+-) 94.Kg1 Qc5+ (94...Qxe5 95.Qd7+ Ka6 96.Qc6+ Ka7 97.Qd7+ Ka8 98.Qc6+ Ka7 99.Qd7+ Ka8 100.Qc6+ Ka7=) 95.Kf1 Rh1+ (95...Qxe5 96.Rb1+ Kc7 97.Rc1+

Kb8 98.Rb1+ Kc7 99.Rc1+ Kb8 100.Rb1+ Kc7=) 96.Ke2 Qxe5+ (96...Rxa1 97.Qd7+ Kb8 98.Qe8+ Qc8 99.Qb5+ Ka7 100.Qd3+-) 97.Kf2 Rxa1+- (97...Qxa1 98.Qd7+ Kb6 99.Qxe6+ Kc5 100.Qc8+ Kd5 101.Qb7+ Kd4 102.Qb6+ Ke4 103.Qb7+ Kf5 104.Qd7+ Kg6 105.Qd3+ Kg7 106.Qd7+ Kg6 107.Qg4+ Kf6 108.Qf3+ Ke5 109.Qe2+ Kd6 110.Qa6+ Kd7 111.Qb7+ Ke6 112.Qc6+ Ke5 113.Qe8+ Kf5 114.Qc8+ Kg5 115.Qc5+ Kg6 116.Qc2+ Kg7 117.Qc7+ Kh6 118.Qf4+ Kg7 119.Qc7+ Kh6 120.Qc6+ Kg7 121.Qd7+ Kh8 122.Qe8+ Kh7 123.Qe4+ Kh8 124.Qe8+ Kg7 125.Qd7+=)]

93...Qb6 94.Qa2 Ka7 95.Qd2

[95.Kxh2 Rh8+ 96.Kg3 Qe3+ 97.Kg4 Rg8+ 98.Kh5 Qg5#]

95...Rd8 96.Qc2 Rd5 97.Rc1 Qb7 98.Qf2+ Kb8 99.Rf1 Qb4 100.Qf7 Qb5 Prevents Qe8+. 101.Qg8+ Ka7

At this stage I can't imagine any of the players' calculations ending in anything other than tablebase draws, but it is intriguing that Black doesn't place the king anywhere near the e-pawn.

[For me it's more obvious to try 101...Kb7 102.Rf7+ Rd7 103.Qe8 Kc7 104.Qxe6 Threatening mate with Qd6+. Rxf7 105.Qxf7+ Kc8 so that in case of necessity the king can help stop the e-pawn. 106.e6 Strongly threatening e7! Qe5!=]

102.Rf7+ Rd7 103.Qe8 Qb1+ 104.Kxh2 Rxf7 105.Qxf7+ KQ-KQ 105...Qb7 106.Qxe6 Qh7+ 107.Kg3 Qd3+ 108.Kh4 Qh7+ 109.Kg4 Qg7+ 110.Kh3 Hoping for Qf6. 110...Qh7+ 111.Kg4 Qg7+ 112.Kf3 Qb7+ 113.Kg3

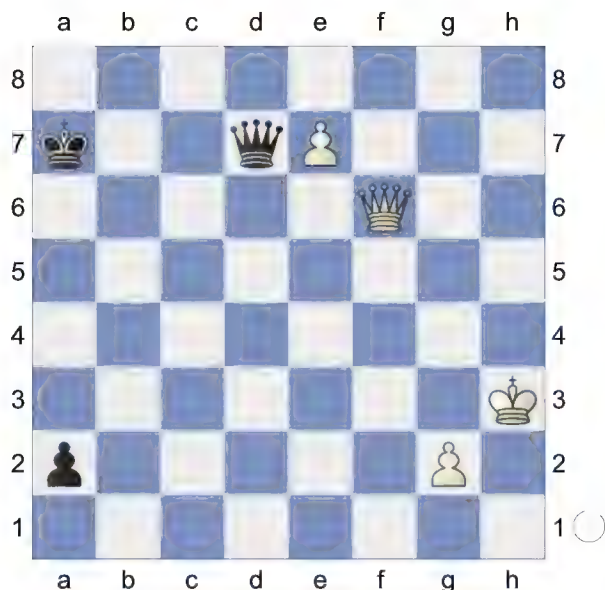
a4 114.Qf6 Threatens to win with e6.
114...a3 115.e6 a2 116.e7 Qc7+
 [116...Qb6 simplifies 117.Qxb6+
 Kxb6 118.e8Q a1Q]

117.Kh3 0.79/26

[117.Kg4= 0.15/23 Qb6 118.Qxb6+
 (118.e8N Qxf6 Remove Defender
 119.Nxf6 a1Q-+) 118...Kxb6
 119.e8Q (119.e8B? a1Q-+)]

117...Qd7+ 1.27/26

[117...Qb6 0.79/26 118.Qf7
 (118.e8N? too greedy. Qxf6
 Remove Defender 119.Nxf6 a1Q-+)
 118...Qe3+ 119.g3 Kb6]



118.Kh4 0.20/21 White is more active.

[118.g4!± 1.27/26]

118...Kb7! 119.Qf3+ Kc7! 120.Qf4+

Kc6! 121.Qf3+ The position is equal.

121...Kd6 122.Qa3+ Kc7 123.Qg3+

[123.Qxa2 simplifies Qxe7+ 124.Kh3
 Qh7+ 125.Kg3]

123...Kb7 124.Qb3+ Kc7 125.Qg3+

[125.Qxa2 simplifies Qxe7+ 126.Kh3
 Qh7+ 127.Kg3]

125...Kc6 126.Qf3+ Kd6 127.Qa3+

Ke5 128.Qb2+ Kf5 129.g4+ Kg6

130.Qe5 Kf7 131.e8R Qxe8

Weighted Error Value: White=0.01
 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)
 1/2-1/2

B00
□ Tari,Aryan 2656
■ Lagarde,Maxime 2580
 Djerba Masters rapid (6) 21.02.2023
 [Kitty Kat]

**B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
 Nimzowitsch Defence**

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.d5
Nb8 5.Bf4 Nf6 6.Bc4 next Qe2 is good
 for White. **6...g6N**

[6...a6

A) 7.Qe2 b5 8.Bb3 Nbd7 (8...c5
 9.dxc6 Nxc6 10.Rd1 Qa5 11.Bd2
 Nd4 12.Nxe4 Qc7 13.Nxf6+ gxf6
 14.Qe4 Bb7 15.Qxd4 Bxg2
 16.Bd5 Rd8 17.f3 e6 18.Bf4 Bd6
 19.Qxf6 Rg8 20.Be4 Bxh1
 21.Ne2 3.♘c3 de4 4.d5

♘b8 31874-le2 Analyse) 9.0-0-0
 Nc5 10.f3 Qd7 11.Nxe4 Nfxe4
 12.fxe4 a5 13.a3 Nxb3+ 14.cxb3
 g6 15.Nf3 Bg7 16.Kb1 0-0
 17.Rc1 b4 18.a4 Qg4 19.Bxc7
 Ba6 20.Qe3 Qxg2 21.Be5 Qe2
 1/2-1/2 (49) Samulevicius,T (2215)-1.
 e4 player (2450) 9/460 Wijk aan
 Zee 1970 (1);

B) 7.f3 b5 8.Bb3 c5 9.dxc6
 Qxd1+ 10.Rxd1 Nxc6 11.Nd5
 Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Bb7 13.Bxe4 e6
 14.Ne2 Bc5 3.Nc3 de4 4.d5 Nb8-7.
 f3 Analyse]

7.f3

[7.Qe2 looks horrific for Black. Bg7
 8.0-0-0 0-0 looks like a stable slight
 advantage for White.]

7...exf3 8.Nxf3 White is slightly better.

8...Bg7 Black is weak on the dark squares **9.0-0 -0.33/24**

[9.Qe2± **0.47/21**]

9...0-0 10.Qe2!? A natural square for the bishop, as soon or late he should start pushing his kingside pawns.

[10.Kh1! c6 11.d6 dxe7 would now be deadly. e6! 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 Nbd7 14.Qe2! **-0.94/20** (14.Ne4= **-0.19/21** keeps the balance.) 14...g5!± 15.Bf2 Nd5 **-0.32/20** (15...Nb6± **-0.87/20**) 16.Rad1 **-0.85/22** (16.Bg3!± **-0.32/20**) 16...N7b6± 17.Bb3!= Qxd6 **0.52/21** (17...Bxc3± **-0.69/22** 18.bxc3 Nxc3) 18.Ne4± Qc7! was still equal according to the engine. 19.c4! **-0.34/20** would be very unpleasant for White. (19.Bc5!± **0.40/20**) 19...Nf4± 20.Qd2 f5 21.Nc5? **-1.99/20** (21.Nd6!± **-0.35/20**) 21...e5]

10...c6N 11.Rad1 cxd5 0.22/20
It is tempting to gain space on the kingside, but probably not ideal.

[11...Qb6+ 12.Kh1! Here White wins as well, but things are definitely more complicated. (12.Be3? **-0.65/19** 12.Kh1 0.36 Qxb2! and White wins. 13.Bd4! Qb4!)

A) 12...Qxb2 1.45/18 12...cxd5 0.17 13.d6!

A1) 13...Qxc3?? 4.17/20

13...e6 1.44 14.dxe7 Re8 15.Rd8 Bd7 16.Bxf7+ (16.Ng5 Nd5 17.Nxf7 was an easy win for White.) 16...Kxf7 17.Ng5+ Kg8 18.Rxd7 Intending Qe6+ and mate. h5 19.Rxb7 should be winning for White. Nbd7! Dodges Be5 20.Qe6+ Kh8 21.Rxd7 Nxd7 22.Qxg6;

A2) 13...e6± 1.02/22 14.Be5 Nbd7;

A3) 13...exd6? 2.07/27

14.Na4!+- (14.Bxd6 **0.00/24**

14.Na4 1.42 Qxc3 15.Bxf8 Bxf8 16.Rd8 Qe7! would kill now. Nbd7) 14...Qb4?

Allowing Black a nice combination and perpetual check. 15.Bxd6! Qxa4 16.Bxf8 Bxf8 17.Rd8! The white king has no escape. Nbd7 White must now prevent ...Qb4. 18.Ng5 Kg7

A3a) 19.Nxf7!+- 2.17/20 Qb4 (19...b5 20.Be6) 20.Ng5;

A3b) 19.Be6? 0.00/18 19...Qa5 1.14/17 (19...Qh4!= **0.00/18** remains equal.

20.Bxd7 Qxg5 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Bxc8 b6) 20.Nxf7;

B) 12...cxd5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Nc6]

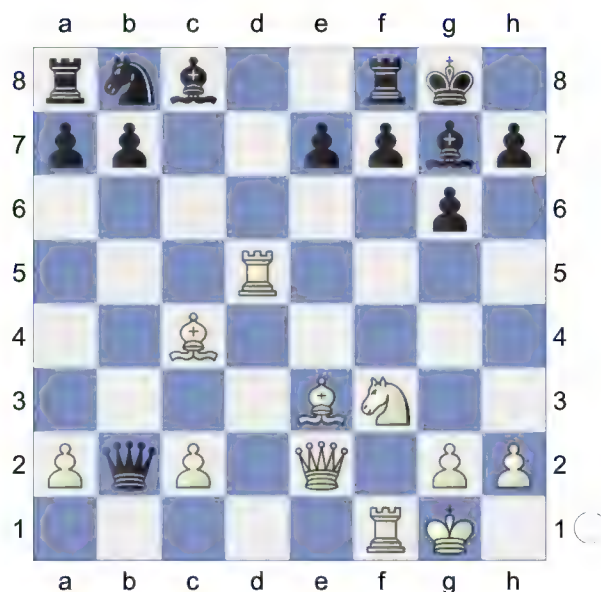
[11...Bg4 **-0.18/20** is superior.]

12.Nxd5= Nxd5 13.Rxd5

[13.Bxd5!? Qe8 14.b4=]

13...Qb6+ 14.Be3! Qxb2 2.96/23

[14...Qc7!= **0.00/18** and Black is okay.]



15.Rb5!+- Qc3 Hoping for ...Nc6.

16.Rc5 Threatens to win with Bxf7+!

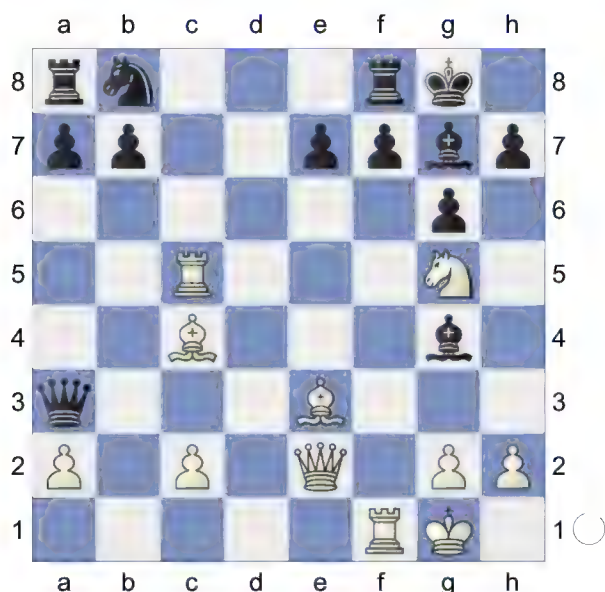
16...Qa3 3.37/22

[16...e6 2.01/19 was worth a try.]

17.Ng5? 0.92/21

[17.Bxf7+!+- 3.37/22 and the rest is easy. Kh8 18.Bb3]

17...Bg4? 3.91/19



This costs Black the game. **18.Rxf7!**
Rxf7

[Stronger than 18...Bxe2 19.Rxf8+ Kxf8 20.Rc8#]

19.Qf2→ Pin. White goes for the king. Any solid move would have been slightly better than this one, with a solid position.

19...Bf5?! #5/17 While playing this move, Black missed 23.Qf7! in the 22...Kh8? line in the game.

[19...Bf6+- 2.44/20]

20.Rc8+ Pin. White mates. **20...Bf8**

21.Bxf7+ Kg7? Probably still blundering the Qf7 idea (if 22...Kh8), but anyway Black needed to win in order to keep chances to qualify for semi-finals (top4) and Lagarde had correctly assessed the alternative as a draw. **22.Bd4+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.47/ Black=1.05. An unexpected result.

1/2-1/2

Winter

B01

2791

Molina,Roberto Junio Brito

2863

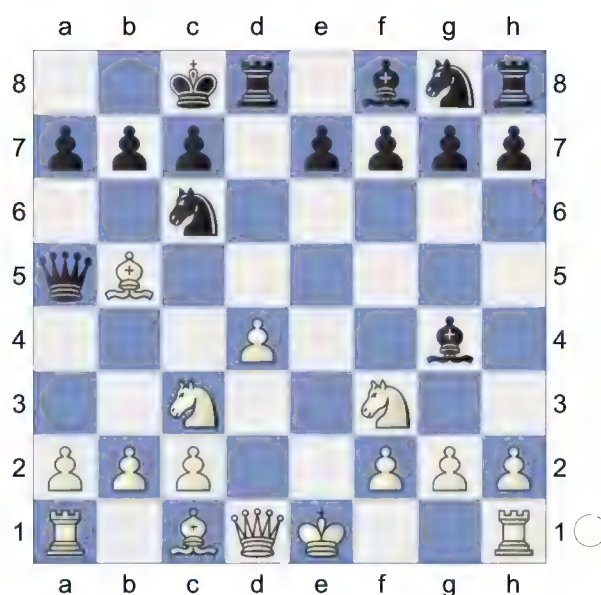
Second Amsterdam-London match 1850..

[Kitty Kat]

B01: Scandinavian Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5

4.Nc3 Qa5 5.d4 Bg4 6.Bb5 0-0-0



Hoping for ...Nxd4! **7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.h3**
0.32/17

[8.Qd3± 0.74/21]

8...Qh5± 9.Be3N White is slightly better.

[9.hxg4 Qxh1+ 10.Ke2 Qxd1+ (10...Qxg2 11.Be3±) 11.Nxd1 f6±]

[9.Qd3 Bxf3 10.gxf3 e6 (10...e5 11.d5 Ne7 12.Bd2 cxd5 13.Qa6+ Kb8 14.Nb5 Nc8 15.Qc6 Bd6 16.0-0-0 Qxf3 17.Be3 Qe4 18.Rhg1 Qc4 19.Qxc4 dxc4 20.Rxg7 f5 21.Rdg1 f4 22.Bd2 Bf8 23.R7g5 a6 24.Na3 Nb6 25.Rxe5 0-1 (56)]

Johansen,T (2425)-12. ♔h5 g6 13. ♔d5 ♔c7 (2465) Jugoslavija (ch) 84/408

2002 (3)) 11.Bd2 Ne7 12.0-0-0 Nf5 13.Ne4 Rxd4 14.Qa6+ Kd7 15.Be3 Rxd1+ 16.Rxd1+ Bd6 17.c4 Ke7 18.Qxa7 Rc8 19.Qb7 Nxe3 20.fxe3

Qxf3 21.Nxd6 Rf8 22.Qxc7+ Kf6
23.Qb6 e5 1-0 (34) Kleinsorgen,H
(2345)-12. ♖h5 g6 13. ♕d5 ♖c7 (2454)
TCh-ROU Superliga 2011 (7)]

9...Nf6 0.70/22

[9...e6= 0.26/23]

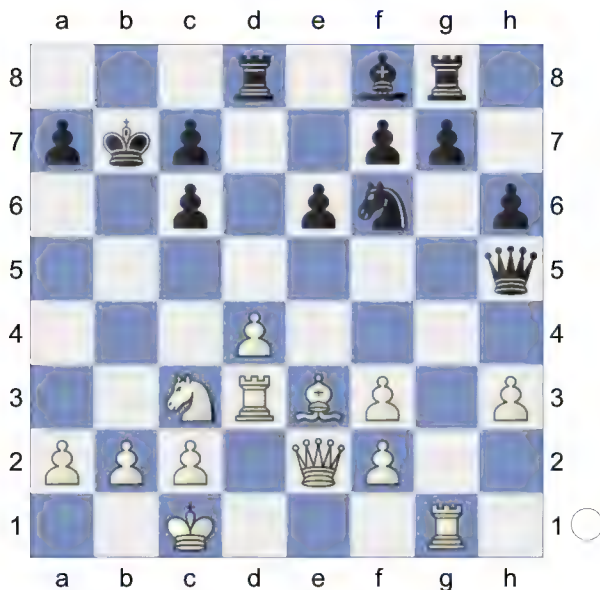
10.Qe2! And now Qa6+ would win.

[10.hxg4 Qxh1+ 11.Ke2 Qxd1+
(11...Qxg2 12.Qd3±) 12.Rxd1
Nxb4]

10...Bxf3 11.gxf3 e6 12.0-0-0 Kb7

13.Rhg1 h6 Against Rg5 14.Rd3
Ne4 is the strong threat. 14...Rg8?
2.11/18

[14...Rb8± 0.50/21]



This move loses the game for Black.

15.Ne4!+- Be7 3.22/19

[15...Qxh3? 16.Nxf6 (16.Rb3+
Kc8+-) 16...gxf6 17.Rxg8+-]

[15...Nxe4 16.Rb3+ Kc8 (16...Ka8?
17.Qa6+-) 17.Qa6+ Kd7 18.fxe4+-]

[15...Nd5 1.99/18 was called for.
16.Rb3+ Kc8]

16.Rb3+ Kc8 17.Qa6+ Kd7 18.Rd1
aiming for d5.

[18.Qxa7 Ra8 19.Nc5+ Bxc5
20.Qxc5 Qxf3+-]

18...Qxf3 2.42/21

[18...Nd5 1.80/19]

19.Nd2 Qxh3 3.38/20

[19...Qd5 2.25/20 20.Nc4
(20.Qxa7? Ra8+ Skewer) 20...Ke8]

20.Nc4 Black must now prevent Bf4!

[20.Qxa7 Ra8 21.Qb7 Rgb8
(21...Rxa2? 22.Bf4+- Discovered
Attack) 22.Qxb8 Rxb8 23.Rxb8
Nd5=]

20...Ke8 21.Ne5

[21.Qxc6+ Kf8 22.Bf4 (22.Qxc7
Nd5±) 22...Qf5 23.Bxc7 (23.Qxc7?
Nd5+-) 23...Rc8+-]

21...Bd6 22.Nxc6

[22.Qxc6+ Ke7=]

22...Ra8 23.Qb7

[23.Nxa7 Qg2=]

23...Kd7 24.Ne5+

[24.Nxa7 Qf5= (24...Rgb8 25.Qc6+
Ke7 26.Nb5±)]

24...Ke7 25.Bf4 Qf5 6.03/19

[25...Rab8 4.18/19 26.Nc6+
(26.Qxa7 Rxb3 27.Nc6+ Kd7±;
26.Qxb8 Qf5+-) 26...Kd7 27.Nxb8+
Rxb8 28.Qxb8 (28.Qxa7?
is the wrong capture. Bxf4+ 29.Kb1
Rxb3+-) 28...Bxf4+ 29.Kb1 Qh5]

26.Nc6+ White is clearly winning.

26...Kd7 27.Bxd6 Kxd6 28.Ne5

White wants to mate with Qb4+.

[28.Nxa7 g6 29.d5 Nxd5]

28...Qf4+ 29.Kb1 Qb4+ would kill now.

29...Rgf8

Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very
precise) /Black=0.56

1-0

B01
2791
2863
 Carlsen Inv Prelim rapid (7.1) 30.04.2020
[Kitty Kat]

B01: Scandinavian Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5
4.Nc3 Qa5 5.d4 Bg4 6.Bb5 0-0-0
7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.h3 0.30/19

[8.Qe2± 0.74/21]

8...Qh5= 9.Be3N White is slightly better.

[9.hxg4 Qxh1+ 10.Ke2 Qxd1+ (10...Qxg2 11.Qd3?) 11.Nxd1 f6?]

[9.Qd3 Bxf3 10.gxf3 e6 (10...e5 11.d5 Ne7 12.Bd2 cxd5 13.Qa6+ Kb8 14.Nb5 Nc8 15.Qc6 Bd6 16.0-0-0 Qxf3 17.Be3 Qe4 18.Rhg1 Qc4 19.Qxc4 dxc4 20.Rxg7 f5 21.Rdg1 f4 22.Bd2 Bf8 23.R7g5 a6 24.Na3 Nb6 25.Rxe5 0-1 (56)

Johansen,T (2425)-12. ♔h5 g6 13. ♔d5 ♔c7 (2465) Jugoslavija (ch) 84/408

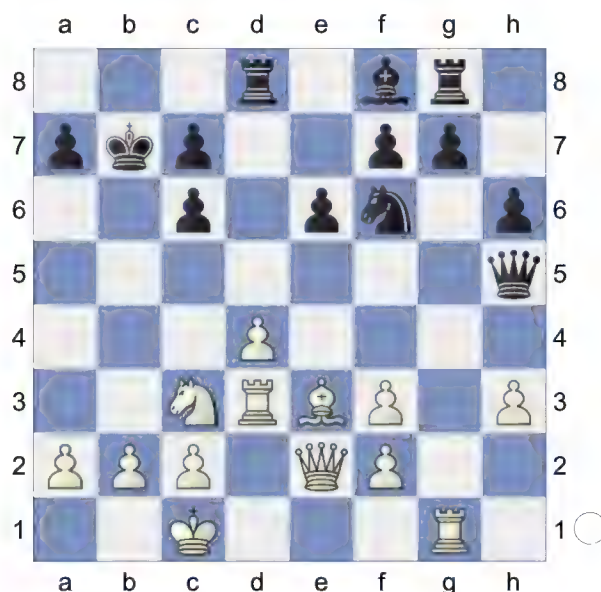
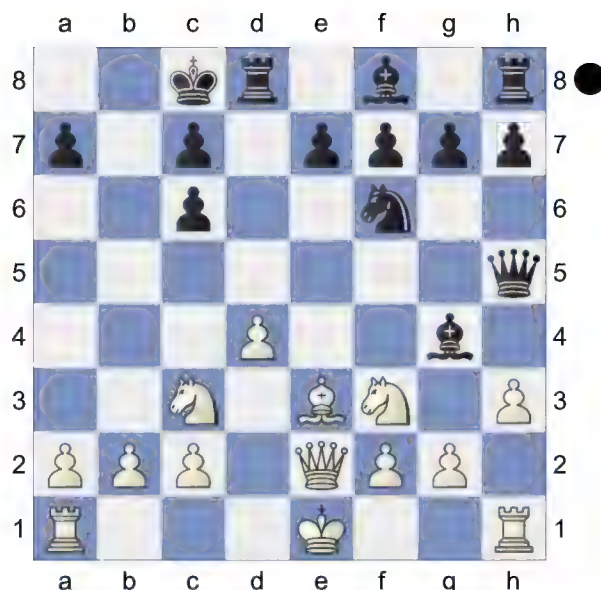
2002 (3)) 11.Bd2 Ne7 12.0-0-0 Nf5 13.Ne4 Rxd4 14.Qa6+ Kd7 15.Be3 Rxd1+ 16.Rxd1+ Bd6 17.c4 Ke7 18.Qxa7 Rc8 19.Qb7 Nxe3 20.fxe3 Qxf3 21.Nxd6 Rf8 22.Qxc7+ Kf6 23.Qb6 e5 1-0 (34) Kleinsorgen,H (2345)-12. ♔h5 g6 13. ♔d5 ♔c7 (2454) TCh-ROU Superliga 2011 (7)]

9...Nf6 10.Qe2

[10.hxg4 Qxh1+ 11.Ke2 Qxd1+ (11...Qxg2 12.Qd3=) 12.Rxd1 Nxg4?]

(Diagram)

aiming for Qa6+. 10...Bxf3 11.gxf3 e6
12.0-0-0 Kb7 13.Rhg1 h6 Prevents
Rg5. 14.Rd3 Rg8? 2.21/17
 [14...Rb8± 0.59/20]



This move loses the game for Black.

15.Ne4!+- Be7 3.23/18

[15...Qxh3? 16.Nxf6 (16.Rb3+ Kc8+-) 16...gxf6 17.Rxg8+-]

[15...Nxe4 16.Rb3+ Kc8 (16...Ka8? 17.Qa6+-) 17.Qa6+ Kd7 18.fxe4+-]

[15...Nd5 1.99/19 16.Rb3+ Kc8]

16.Rb3+ Kc8 17.Qa6+ Kd7 18.Rd1

Hoping for d5.

[18.Qxa7 Ra8 19.Nc5+ Bxc5 20.Qxc5 Qxf3+-]

18...Qxf3 19.Nd2 Qxh3 3.46/20

[Δ 19...Qd5 2.26/21 20.Nc4
(20.Qxa7? Ra8+ Skewer) 20...Ke8]

20.Nc4 Bf4! would now be deadly.

[20.Qxa7 Ra8 21.Qb7 Rgb8
(21...Rxa2? 22.Bf4+- Discovered
Attack) 22.Qxb8 Rxb8 23.Rxb8
Ng4=]

20...Ke8 21.Ne5

[21.Qxc6+ Kf8 22.Bf4 (22.Qxc7
Nd5±) 22...Qf5 23.Bxc7 (23.Qxc7?
Nd5+) 23...Rc8+-]

21...Bd6 22.Nxc6

[22.Qxc6+ Kf8=]

22...Ra8 23.Qb7

[Worse is 23.Nxa7 Qg2=]

23...Kd7 24.Ne5+ White is clearly
winning.

[24.Nxa7 Qf5± (24...Rgb8 25.Qc6+
Ke7 26.Nb5±)]

24...Ke7 25.Bf4 Qf5 6.05/20

[Δ 25...Rab8 4.24/20 26.Ng6+
(26.Qxa7 Rxb3 27.Nc6+ Kd7+-;
26.Qxb8 Qf5+-) 26...Kd7]

**26.Nc6+ Kd7 27.Bxd6 Kxd6 28.Ne5
Qf4+ 29.Kb1** Intending Qb4+ and mate.
29...Rgf8

Weighted Error Value: White=0.25
(precise) /Black=0.64

1-0

B00
☐ **Nepomniachtchi, Ian** 2784
☒ **Carlsen, Magnus** 2863

Carlsen Inv Prelim rapid (6.2) 28.04.20
[Ed ,Romain, Kitty Kat]

**B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence**

1.e4 GM Nigel Davies 1...Nc6
Magnus came with this "new weapon" to
his own Invitational event. **2.d4 d5 3.e5
Bf5 4.c3 e6 5.Nf3 Qd7N**

[5...Nge7 0.96/20 5...f6 0.42
was tried by GM Maghsoodloo,
without big success: 6.Nh4 (6.Be2
Ng6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.h3
Nh4 10.Nxh4 Bxh4 11.0-0 f6
12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Nf3 Qd6 14.Re1 e5
15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Qb3 c6 17.Rad1
Nxf3+ 18.Bxf3 Rf7 19.Rd2 Be5
20.Qd1 b5 X-X (32) 12.ef7 Ξ f7 13.
 Ξ d1 Δ b6 1 (2225)-Warakomska,A

(2075) Belgrade Serbia op 2021
21.Bd4 Bh2+ 22.Kh1 Bf4 23.Rde2
Bd7 24.Bg4 c5 25.Be6 cxd4
26.Bxf7+ Kxf7 27.Qxd4 Rf8 28.Qxa7
Kg8 29.Qd4 Qc6 30.Rd1 Be6
31.Rde1 Bd7 32.Rd1 Be6
X-X 12.ef7 Ξ f7 13. Ξ d1 Δ b6 1 (2357)-
Socko,M (2075) 73/(582) Dortmund
1998) 6...Bg6 7.Nd2 f6 (7...Nf5
8.Nxg6 hxg6 9.g3 Be7 10.Bg2 Qd7
11.Qe2 0-0-0 12.a4 Rh7 13.a5
Rdh8 14.Nf3 B 00/09-N,N 2000)
8.exf6 gxf6 9.Nxg6 Nxg6 1.25/20
(9...hxg6± 0.48/22 10.Qb3 b6)
10.Qb3± a6 11.g3± 1-0 (34) Karjakin,
S (2753)-Maghsoodloo,P (2688) St
Petersburg 2018]

6.Nh4 Be4!N GM Nigel Davies: "I
An interesting novelty, avoiding a simply
worse position.

[6...Bg6 7.Nxg6 hxg6 8.Bb5 Nge7
9.Nd2 a6 10.Ba4 Nf5 11.Nf3±
0-1 (43) Korchnoi,V (2645)-Welling,
G Eindhoven 1982]

7.Nd2 0-0-0 8.Bb5!? White is better.

[White should watch out for 8.Nxe4?!
0.36/19 8.f3 1.02 dxe4 9.Qe2?!
-0.71/22 (9.Bb5= 0.29/22) 9...Nxd4!±
10.cxd4 Bb4+→]

8...a6 9.Ba4 f6

[9...Nge7 1.89/19 9...f6 0.99 10.Nxe4
dxe4 11.Qe2±]

10.Nhf3 Nge7?!

[10...Bd3!? GM Nigel Davies: '!' could be the way to play for Black! 11.Nb3 Be4 12.Na5 Bxc6 is the strong threat. (12.Nbd2=) 12...Nge7! 13.0-0

A) 13...Kb8? is the first engine recommendation, but it's just bad: 14.Nd2 Bf5 1.27/21 (14...fxe5± 0.63/21 15.Nxc6+ Nxc6) 15.Ndb3!± b5 White must now prevent ...Nxa5. (15...b6? 3.55/21 15...b5 1.33 16.Nc5!+-) 16.Nc5 Qc8 17.Bxb5! axb5 18.Nab7! followed by b4, a4, with a crushing attack.;

B) 13...b6! 14.Nxc6 Nxc6 and Black will put his king on b7 and has a relatively solid setup.]

11.0-0 Ng6 12.Re1 0.63/18

[12.b4± 1.18/18]

12...Bf5± 13.b4 Now that White has castled he has a free hand to attack on the queenside. **13...fxe5 14.dxe5**

[14.Rxe5!? GM Nigel Davies b5 15.Rxf5!±]

[14.Nxe5 Ngxe5 15.dxe5 b5±]

14...b5! Surely not something Black is happy to do, but he had to prevent White from pushing b5 himself.

15.Bc2 d4 16.Bxf5! exf5 17.c4 Played a tempo by White - typical Nepo! Obviously, it is a very logical move, just opening up everything in front of the black king. **17...Bxb4**

[17...bxc4 1.43/22 17...Bxb4 0.82 18.Nxc4 Bxb4 19.Bd2→ 0.78/18 (White should play 19.Qa4 1.41/22 a5 20.Nxa5 Bxa5 21.e6)]

18.cxb5

[18.e6! was better right away, as the d5-square is not available for the black queen, e.g. Qd6 19.cxb5 axb5 ...Bc3 would now be deadly. 20.a4

Bc3 21.axb5! Bxa1 22.Qa4! Inhibits Na5. Nb8 23.Ba3! Qd5 24.Rxa1 aiming for b6! Qxe6? 3.19/18 (24...Rhe8± 0.89/21) 25.b6!+- Qc6 26.Rc1! Qxb6 Hoping for ...Nf4. 27.Rb1! Qe6 28.Nxd4 1.14/19 (28.Nc4!+- 2.16/21 Strongly threatening Qb3. Qe4 29.Qb5) 28...Rxd4± 29.Qxd4±]

18...axb5 19.Rb1 Rhe8 0.86/20

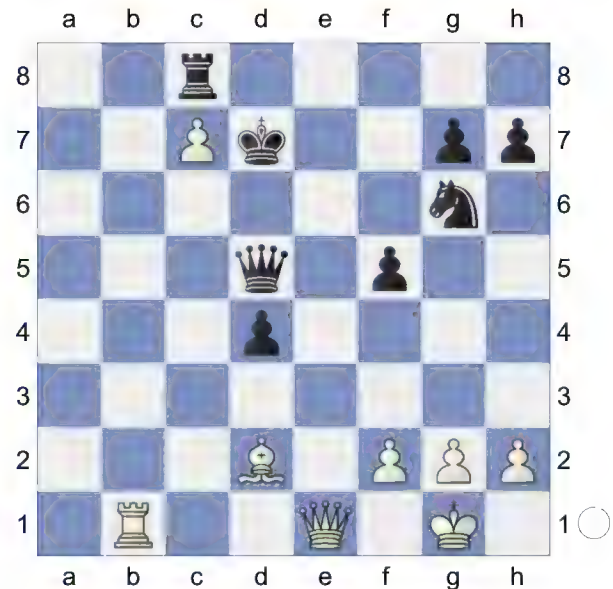
[19...Qd5 20.a4 And now axb5 would win. Bxd2 21.Bxd2 0.19/19 (21.Qxd2± 0.76/25 b4 22.Qd3) 21...b4!= 22.Bxb4 also looks very unpleasant for Black.]

[19...Qd5!= 0.22/22 keeps the balance. 20.a4 Qc5]

20.a4± Qd5 21.axb5 Bxd2 22.Bxd2

[22.Qxd2 Ncxe5 23.Nxe5 Rxe5±]

22...Ncxe5 23.Nxe5 Rxe5 24.b6! Rxe1+ 25.Qxe1 Kd7! 26.bxc7 Rc8



Black has survived the worst part of the game, but his position is still no fun to play.

27.Rb4?! 0.07/20

[27.Qd1! 0.39/17 27.Qe2 1.54 would be stronger according to the engine, with ideas like Rxc7 28.Qa4+

Ke7 29.h4! - and Black has to be very careful.]

[White must play 27.Qe2!± 1.57/23]

27...Rxc7=

[27...Nf8! 0.66/19 27...Rxc7 0.11 followed by ... ♖e6 would have been a strong equaliser.]

28.Qa1! Thanks to this little move, the pressure goes on.

[28.Qb1 looks sharper. Ke6 29.h3 Nh4 30.f3]

28...Ke8 29.Rxd4

[29.Qxd4 simplifies Qxd4 30.Rxd4 Ne7 31.Be1]

29...Qe6 30.h4 White wants to play Rd3. **30...Rd7 31.Qa4**

[31.h5 simplifies Ne7 32.Rxd7 Qxd7 33.Bc3]

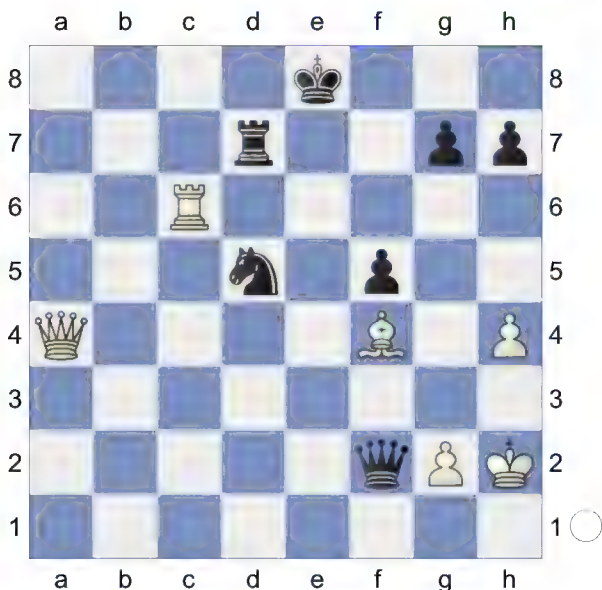
31...Ne5 Still, it is too little for White to achieve anything.

32.Bf4 Nc6 33.Rc4 Ne7 34.Rc7

[34.Rc1 simplifies Qe4 35.Qxe4 fxe4 36.Re1]

34...Nd5 35.Rc6 Qe1+ 36.Kh2 Kf7!

[36...Qxf2?? 5.98/18 36...Nxf4 0.04



37.Re6+! Kd8 38.Qa8#]

[36...Nxf4 keeps more tension.

37.Rc8+ Ke7 38.Qxf4 Qe6]

37.Qa2

[37.Ra6 simplifies Qe8 38.f3 Nxf4 39.Qxf4 Kg8 40.Qxf5 Qb8+ 41.Kh3]

37...Qe4 38.g3 h6 39.h5?! White now tries to be worse! 39...Qf3 40.Kg1

[40.Rd6 simplifies Rxd6 41.Bxd6 Kg8 42.Be5]

40...Kg8 41.Rc8+? -1.74/24 And manages!

[41.Qa8+ Kh7 42.Qe8 Qg6+ would kill now. Qd1+! 43.Kh2 Nxf4 44.gxf4 Rd8= Dodges Rc8]

[41.Qa8+= 0.00/18 and White is okay. Kf7 (41...Kh7 42.Qe8=) 42.Rc1]

41...Kh7-+ Suddenly White's position is turning to a nightmare.

42.Qa8? -4.86/33

[42.Be5 -1.66/23 is a better chance.]

42...Qd1+

[42...Qxh5 43.Rh8+ Kg6 44.Qe8+ Rf7 45.Qe6+ Nf6 46.Kg2=]

43.Kh2 Qxh5+ 44.Kg1 Qd1+ 45.Kh2 Nxf4

[45...Qh5+? 46.Kg1 Qd1+ 47.Kh2-+]

46.Rh8+ Kg6 47.Qe8+ Kg5 48.gxf4+ Kxf4 Endgame. KQR-KQR **49.Rf8** White threatens Qe3+ and mate.

[49.Qe3+ Kg4 50.Qg3+ Kh5-+]

49...Kg5?? 0.00/40 An incredible blunder under time pressure.

[Amongst the many winning moves, 49...Rd3! was strongest, with a deadly threat of 50...Rh3+!]

[Better is 49...Rd3-+ -6.34/21 (-> ...Rh3+!) 50.Qb8+ (50.Qf7? gets mated. Rh3+ Decoy 51.Kxh3 Qh1#) 50...Kg5]

50.Qe3+= The position is equal.

50...Kg6 51.Qe6+ Deflection, Double Attack 51...Kh7! 52.Qg8+

[52.Qe8!? Qd6+□ 53.Kh3=]

52...Kg6 53.Qe6+ Deflection, Double

Attack 53...Kh7! 54.Qg8+ Kg6
 55.Qe6+ Deflection, Double Attack.
 Never resign too early!
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.34/
 Black=0.22 (precise)
 1/2-1/2

B00
 ☐ Panov Botvinnik Attack 2784
 ■ Molina,Roberto Junio Brito 2863
 Second Amsterdam-London match 1850..
 [Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
 Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.c3 e6
 5.Nf3 Qd7N 0.89/21

[5...f6± 0.33/22]

[5...Nge7 6.Be2 (6.Nbd2 Bg6
 7.Nh4 Nf5 8.Nxg6 hxg6 9.g3 Be7
 10.Bg2 Qd7 11.Qe2 0-0-0 12.a4
 Rh7 13.a5 Rdh8 14.Nf3 B 00/09-N,
 N 2000) 6...Ng6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Nbd2
 0-0 9.h3 Nh4 10.Nxh4 Bxh4 11.0-0
 f6 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Nf3 Qd6 14.Re1
 e5 15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Qb3 c6
 17.Rad1 Nxf3+ 18.Bxf3 Rf7 19.Rd2
 Be5 20.Qd1 X-X (32) 12.ef7 ♖f7 13.
 ♔d1 ♘b6 1 (2225)-Warakomska,A
 (2075) Belgrade Serbia op 2021 b5
 21.Bd4 Bh2+ 22.Kh1 Bf4 23.Rde2
 Bd7 24.Bg4 c5 25.Be6 cxd4
 26.Bxf7+ Kxf7 27.Qxd4 Rf8 28.Qxa7
 Kg8 29.Qd4 Qc6 30.Rd1 Be6
 31.Rde1 Bd7 32.Rd1 Be6
 X-X 12.ef7 ♖f7 13.♔d1 ♘b6 1 (2357)-
 Socko,M (2075) 73/(582) Dortmund
 1998]

6.Nh4± Be4 7.Nd2 0-0-0 8.Bb5
 White is better. 8...a6 9.Ba4 f6
 10.Nhf3 Nge7 11.0-0 Ng6 12.Re1 Bf5
 13.b4 fxe5 14.dxe5 0.55/19

[14.Nxe5?! Ngxe5 15.Rxe5 Bd6=
 (15...b5 16.Rxf5 exf5 17.Bc2±)]
 [Better is 14.Rxe5± 1.05/22 Qd6
 15.Re3]

14...b5!± 15.Bc2 d4 16.Bxf5! exf5
 17.c4 aiming for e6. 17...Bxb4 18.cxb5
 0.16/17

[18.e6± 0.82/26 Qd6 19.cxb5 axb5
 20.a4]

18...axb5= Strongly threatening ...Bc3.
 19.Rb1 And now a4 would win.

19...Rhe8 0.85/20

[19...Qd5!= 0.01/22 20.a4 Nf4]

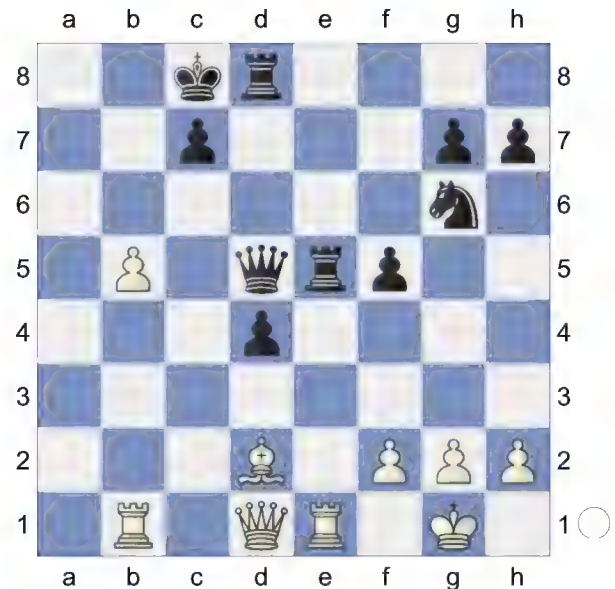
20.a4± Qd5 21.axb5 Bxd2 1.34/19

[♞21...Qxb5 0.75/24 22.Ba3 Pin
 Nf4]

22.Bxd2

[22.Qxd2 Ncxe5 23.Nxe5 Nxe5+
 (23...Rxe5 24.Rf1+)]

22...Ncxe5 23.Nxe5 Rxe5



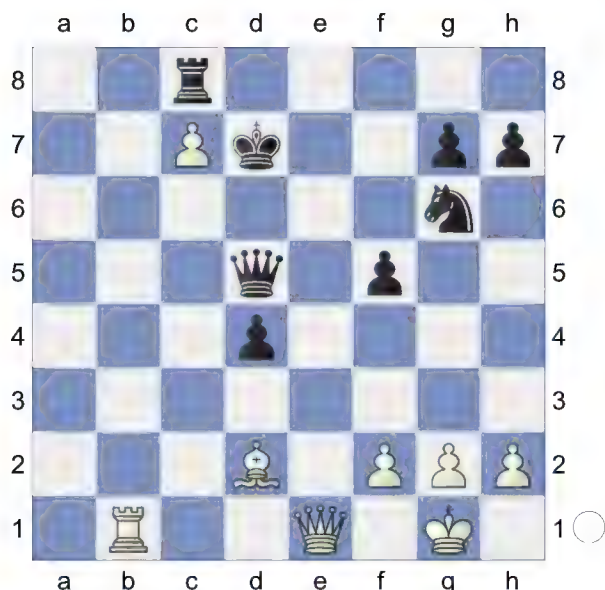
24.b6! Rxe1+ 25.Qxe1 Kd7 26.bxc7
 Rc8

(Diagram)

27.Rb4 0.07/18

[White should try 27.Qe2!± 1.41/21]

27...Rxc7= 28.Qa1



[28.Qb1 looks sharper. Ke6 29.h3 Nh4 30.f3]

28...Ke8 29.Rxd4

[29.Qxd4 simplifies Qxd4 30.Rxd4 Kf7 31.Kf1]

29...Qe6 30.h4 Rd7 31.Qa4

[31.h5 simplifies Ne7 32.Rxd7 Qxd7 33.Bf4]

31...Ne5 32.Bf4 Nc6 33.Rc4

[33.Rxd7 simplifies Qxd7 34.Qb3 Ne7 35.Be5]

33...Ne7 34.Rc7 Nd5 35.Rc6 Qe1+ 36.Kh2 Kf7

[36...Nxf4 with more complications. 37.Rc8+ Ke7 38.Qxf4 Qe6]

37.Qa2

[37.Ra6 simplifies Qe8 38.f3 Nxf4 39.Qxf4 Kg8 40.Qxf5 Qb8+ 41.Kh3]

37...Qe4 38.g3 h6 39.h5 Qf3 40.Kg1 Kg8 Threatens to win with ...Kh7!

[40...Qxh5 simplifies 41.Rc7 Qd1+ 42.Kh2 Rxc7 43.Bxc7 Qd4]

41.Rc8+? -1.66/22

[41.Qa8+= 0.00/25 Kf7 (41...Kh7 42.Qe8=) 42.Bd6]

41...Kh7+ ...Qd1+ is the strong threat.

42.Qa8? -5.33/33

[42.Be3? -1.53/19 is more resistant.]

42...Qd1+

[42...Qxh5 43.Rh8+ Kg6 44.Qe8+ Rf7 45.Rxh6+ gxh6 46.Qg8+ Rg7 (46...Kf6 47.Qh8+ Rg7 48.Qf8+ Kg6 49.Qe8+ Rf7 50.Qg8+ Kf6 51.Qh8+ Rg7 52.Qf8+ Rf7 53.Qh8+=) 47.Qe8+ (47.Qxd5 Kh7=) 47...Rf7 48.Qg8+ Kf6 49.Qh8+ Ke7 (49...Rg7 50.Qf8+ Qf7 51.Qd6+ Qe6 52.Be5+ Kf7 53.Qxe6+ Kxe6 54.Bxg7=) 50.Qe5+ (50.Bxh6? Nf6-+) 50...Kf8 51.Qh8+ Ke7 52.Qe5+ (52.Bxh6? Nf6-+) 52...Kf8 53.Qh8+ Ke7=]

43.Kh2 Qxh5+ 44.Kg1 Qd1+ 45.Kh2 Nxf4

[45...Qh5+ 46.Kg1 Qe2 47.Rh8+ Kg6 48.Qe8+ Qxe8 49.Rxe8 Nxf4 50.gxf4-+]

46.Rh8+ Kg6 47.Qe8+ Kg5 48.gxf4+ Kxf4

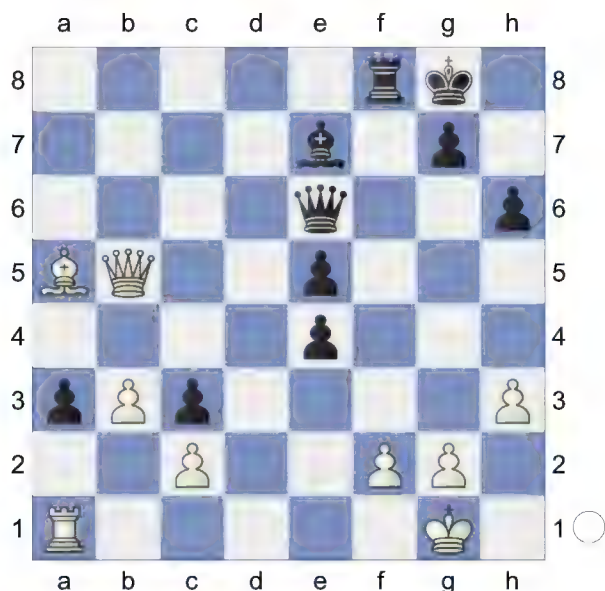
Endgame. White must now prevent ...Rd3. KQR-KQR 49.Rf8? -6.29/19

[49.Qe3+ -3.62/17 Kg4 50.Qg3+ Kh5 51.Qh3+ Kg6 52.Qg3+ Kf7 53.Qh3 Qd6+ 54.Qg3]

49...Kg5? 0.00/37

[Black should play 49...Rd3-+ -6.29/19 (-> ...Rh3+!) 50.Qb8+ (50.Qf7? is a self mate. Rh3+ Decoy 51.Kxh3 Qh1#) 50...Kg5 51.Rxf5+ Decoy Kxf5 52.Qf8+ Ke4 53.Qf7 Qd2 54.Qb7+ Kf4 (54...Rd5? 55.Kg2-+) 55.Qf7+ Kg4 56.Kg2 Qg5 57.Qc4+ Kf5+ 58.Kf1 Rd1+ 59.Ke2 Qd2+ 60.Kf3 Qd3+ (60...Qd5+ leads to mate. 61.Qxd5+ Rxd5 62.Ke3 h5 63.f4 g6 64.Kf3 h4 65.Ke3 h3 66.Kf2 Kxf4 67.Kf1 Kf3 68.Kg1 h2+ 69.Kxh2 Rd1 70.Kh3 Rh1#) 61.Qxd3+ Rxd3+ 62.Ke2 Ke4 63.f3+ Rxf3 64.Kd2 h5 65.Ke2 h4 66.Kd2 h3 67.Ke2 h2 68.Kd2 h1Q (68...h1R gets mated.]

27...f5 ...fxe4 would now be deadly.
28.Rxb5 axb5 29.Qxb5 fxe4



White must now prevent ...Bh4. 30.Bxc3 Rc8

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
1/2-1/2

□ Ter Sahakyan, Samvel

■ Sanal, Vahap

SRB-chT Premier (6)

[Ter Sahakyan, Kitty Kat]

B06

2630

2595

25.09.2022

Slow 90min+30sec
Defence

B06: Modern

1.e4 Round 6 I faced young and very strong Turkish GM Sanal Vahap, I have decided to start with 1.e4 while checking Sanal games I noticed that he plays many different openings and lines, in chess olympiad in Chennai against Dominguez and in recent games he started playing Ruy Lopez, so mainly I was expecting him to play 1...e5. 1...Nc6 Of course he surprised me, according to new engines best for white is to play 2.

d4 d5 3.e5 bf5 4.c3 with the idea to play 5.bd3, but as I mentioned above I expected him to play Ruy Lopez. 2.Nf3

[2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.c3]

2...d6 And here black had 2...e5 the best move and we transpose to Ruy Lopez, other moves including the move which Sanal played has bad reputation. 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Be3 White has different moves and setups here but recently I checked setup with 5.be3 and 6.qd2 and decided to play it. 5...Bg7 6.Qd2 Bg4? 1.16/19 Big inaccuracy by Sanal, it's quite known among players who analyzed such a line.

[6...Ng4± 0.67/21 might be stronger.]

7.d5!± Ne5N

[7...Bxf3? The problem for black is that 7...bxf3 doesn't work because of 8.dxc6 not 8.gxf3 ne5, and now b7 is hanging bishop on f3 also, if black takes on e4 with the bishop then 8... bxe4 9. nxe4 nxe4 10.qb4 both knight and pawn on b7 are hanging, if 8... nxe4 then 9.qd3 nxc3 10.gxf3 knight on c3 almost trapped. 8.dxc6 (8.gxf3 0.64/20 8.dxc6 1.38 Ne5) 8...Nxe4 (8...Bxe4 2.64/21 8...Nxe4 1.28 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Qb4)

(Diagram)

9.Qd3! Nxc3 2.55/20 (9...Nxf2± 1.30/19 10.Bxf2 Bxc6) 10.gxf3]

[7...Nb8?!]

A) 8.e5!± 0.64/20 8.Nd4 1.24 dxe5 (8...Bxf3? 3.53/22 8...dxe5 0.62 9.exf6) 9.Nxe5;

B) 8.Nd4! c5 (8...c6 9.f3 Bd7 10.Be2 cxd5 11.exd5 Na6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Kh1 Nc7 14.Bc4 a6 15.a4 e5 16.dxe6 fxe6 17.Bb3 d5 18.Bf4 Nh5 19.Bg5 Bf6 20.Bh6



Bg7 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Qe3 Qf6
23.Rae1 1-0 (40) Zurek,M (2281)-
29. Philidor Hanham Variation
(2138) Barkhuus mem 2005)
9.Nb3±]

8.Nxe5 White is clearly better.

[8.Nd4 0.59/23 8.Nxe5 1.57

A) 8...c5

A1) 9.Nb3 0.35/23 9.dxc6 0.96
Bf3 1.00/22 (9...Bd7± 0.35/23);

A2) 9.dxc6 Nxc6;

B) 8...Bd7! 9.f4 c5!]

[8.Ng1?! Bd7 9.f4 Neg4]

[8.Nh4?! Bd7]

8...dxe5 9.Bc4 Making e7-e6 ideas less attractive, white had also 9.f3 and if 9...bd7 10.g4 and next h4-h5.

[9.f3 Bd7 10.g4]

9...a6 Taking control over b5 square and also preparing in some positions b7-b5.

10.f3 Bc8 Was slightly surprised by this move, expected 10...bd7, but I assume Sanal wanted to meet 11.g4 with 11...h5 and 12. g5 with nd7 and completely close kingside.

[10...Bd7 11.g4 (11.a4)]

11.a4 Stopping b7-b5. **11...Qd6** I think another inaccuracy by Sanal, not

sure what black's queen does on d6, I think more logical is to castle short side and maneuver the knight and prepare f7-f5. **12.0-0**

[12.a5]

12...0-0 If black tries e7-e6 white always can play rfd1, I don't think taking on e6 is good for white black will simply take back on e6 with the bishop.

[12...e6 2.09/24 12...b6 1.61

A) 13.dxe6 0.76/17 13.Rfd1 2.07

Bxe6 14.Qxd6 (14.Bxe6 Qxe6)
14...cxd6;

B) 13.Rfd1! exd5 2.94/20
(13...Qb4 2.02/19) 14.Nxd5]

13.a5 Preparing some na4 nc5 or bc5 ideas also white generally wants to move back his light squared bishop and advance c4 pawn, now we see how awkwardly black's queen is placed. **13...Kh8 14.Na4 Qd8 15.Rfd1 Ne8** Knight goes back and black is ready to push f5. **16.Nc5** Wanted to have knight on c5 to always meet f7-f5 with ne6 ideas but later on understood that black will take on e6 with the bishop and put his knight on d6 which makes hard for white to breakthrough black's position, already here white should move light squared bishop back and push c pawn.

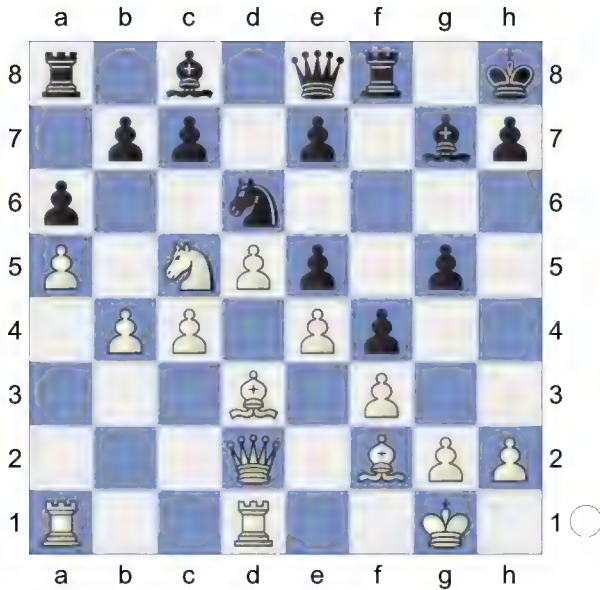
[16.Be2 f5 17.c4]

16...Nd6 17.Bd3 Qe8 18.c4

[18.Re1 Engine recommendation against f7-f5, white will take on f5 and after gxf5 bh6 black's e5 pawn is a huge target. f5 19.exf5 gxf5]

18...f5 19.b4 White slowly pushes his pawns on queenside, black needs some ideas, the most logical one is to push f4 and later on g5 h5. **19...f4 20.Bf2 g5**

(Diagram)



21.h3 0.96/24 Stopping g4 and provoking h5-g4 then white will take on g4 and open h file for his rooks.

[21.Ne6!]

[Δ 21.Ne6 1.32/22 Bxe6 22.dxe6]

21...h5 **22.Kf1!** It's very dangerous to keep the king on kingside. **22...Qg6**

[22...g4 23.hxg4 hxg4 24.Ke2 g3 25.Bg1 (25.Be1 0.28/20 25.Rh1+ 0.88

Later on white can regroup his pieces and especially dark squared bishop and attack e5 pawn.)]

23.Ke2 **Nf7** Black wants to push g4 and then bring his knight to g5 and sacrifice on f3, white can meet g5-g4 ideas with h3-h4 taking control over g5 square and stop ng5 but then black can push g3 and regroup his pieces like bg7-f6 nf7-h8 then ng6 and h4 pawn falls.

[23...g4 24.hxg4 hxg4 25.Rh1+]

24.Rh1 **Kg8** **25.Kd1** **Re8** Black wants to play e7-e6 and activate his bishop on f8-a3 diagonal.

[25...g4 26.hxg4 (26.h4 0.22/20 26.hxg4 1.42 g3) 26...hxg4 27.Kc2 0.94/18 (Δ 27.Qe2 1.35/21) 27...Ng5 1.79/20 (27...g3± 0.94/18)

A) 28.Bh4!? If black takes on f3

then bxc5 and if qxc5 then gxf3 if instead of qxc5 black plays fxg2 then qxc2 f3 qg3. gxf3? 4.27/20

(28...e6 1.84/18 29.fxg4 b6)

29.Bxc5+- Qxc5 (29...fxg2

30.Qxc2 f3 31.Qg3) 30.gxf3;

B) 28.Bh4+- 1.79/20;

C) 28.Qe2 1.23/18 28...gxf3?

2.76/21 (28...g3± 1.23/18

is a better defense.) 29.gxf3+-

Nxf3? 5.41/18 (29...Kf7 2.62/18

30.Kb2 Nh3) 30.Qxf3+- Bg4

31.Rhg1! (31.Qg2? -0.97/19

31.Rhg1 5.63 Bd1+/-+)]

26.Kc2 **e6** **27.Ra3** 0.90/20 If black

takes on d5 white has both the captures, with exd5 white gets e4 square for his minor pieces and of course cxd5 and backward pawn on c7.

[White should try 27.Kb2 1.40/20]

27...Qf6 1.57/20 Preparing some small tactics like exd5 and if white plays exd5 then e4.

[27...g4]

[Δ 27...g4 0.90/20]

28.Kb1 White has more active pieces.

28...Bf8

[28...exd5 29.cxd5 (29.exd5)]

29.Rc1 White has so many ways to improve the position and hard to say the same for black. **29...h4?!** 2.02/19 Black closes kingside and hopes to hold on queenside.

[29...b6? 2.95/24 29...exd5 1.36

30.axb6 cxb6 31.Na4 (31.Nxe6

Bxe6 32.dxe6+-) 31...a5 3.41/20

(Δ 31...exd5 2.31/18 32.Nxb6 dxe4)

32.Nxb6+- Bxb4 33.Qxb4 axb4

34.Rxa8+-]

[29...g4± 1.32/21]

30.Qb2 Improving white's queen.

30...Bg7 **31.Bc2** **exd5** **32.cxd5**

Backward pawn on c7 is a huge

weakness.

[Much less strong is 32.exd5?! Bf5±]
32...Nd6 33.Ba4 Nb5 34.Bxb5

I think white doesn't need his light squared bishop anymore. **34...axb5**

35.Rac3 c6

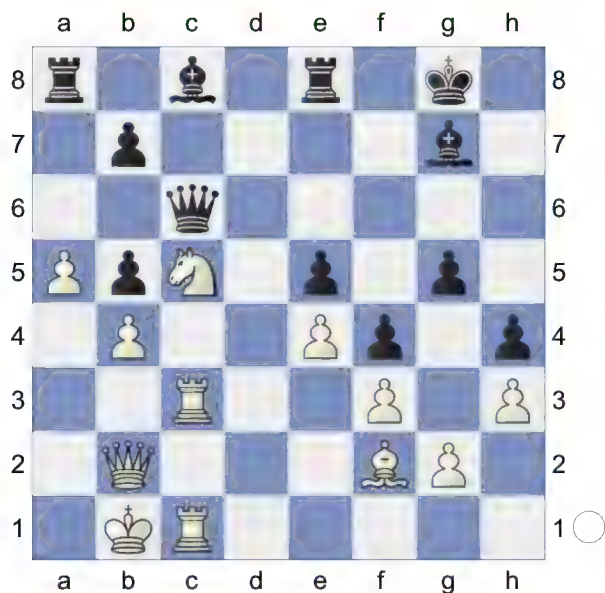
[35...Bf8 36.Nd3 Bd6 37.Bc5

White will trade dark squared bishops and enter to 7 th rank black has many weaknesses and few awkward pieces. (37.Rxc7 Bxc7 38.Rxc7

White has huge advantage, very soon some of black's pawns will fall.)]

36.dxc6 Qxc6

[36...bxc6 36...bxc6 was last attempt to continue the game,white will double his rooks on d file and if need be queen also can stand on d file helping white's forces to enter 6th or 8th ranks.]



37.Na4! Knight goes b6 and white wins an exchange. **37...Qe6**

[37...Qd6 38.Nb6]

38.Nb6 Rb8 39.Nd5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.25 (precise)
 My opponent decided to resign here,

hope you enjoyed the game dear readers.

1-0

C55

□ **Sadhwani,Raunak** **2620**

■ **Ganguly,Surya Shekhar** **2589**

MPL Indian Chess Tour N3 rapid (10)

[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3

Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nc3 d6 7.a4

7.a4 ist die kritische Fortsetzung. 7...Be6

[7...h6 8.h3 (8.Re1 Re8 9.Bd2 Bf8

10.h3 a5 11.Be3 Be6 12.Bb5 g6

13.d4 exd4 14.Nxd4 Bd7 15.Nxc6

bxc6 16.Bc4 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Rxe4

18.Bd3 Re8 19.Bd4 Rxe1+ 20.Qxe1

Qg5 21.Kh1 Qd5 22.Qe4 Qxe4

0-1 (49) Amador Garcia,I (2172)-

Perez Garcia,R (2311) La Palma

Island op 2024 (8) 8...Be6 9.Re1

Nxe4 10.Nxe4 d5 11.Bb5 dxe4

12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Nxe5 exd3

14.Nxc6 dxc2 15.Qxc2 Qd7 16.Bf4

Bf6 17.Rac1 Bd5 18.b4 a6 19.Red1

Rfe8 20.b5 Qe6 21.Qd2 Bxc6

22.Rxc6 1-0 (51) 4.d4 f6 5.c4

(2784)-Ferragut,A (2702) Uralsk op

2023 (3.13)]

8.Re1 Qd7N

[8...Nb4 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.d4 exd4

11.Nxd4 Qd7 Two Knights-3.Bc4 Nf6

4.d3 #4]

9.a5 White is slightly better. 9...a6 10.h3

Rae8 11.Bd2 Bd8 12.Nd5 Bxd5

13.Bxd5

[13.exd5 Ne7±]

13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Ne7 15.c4 Ng6

16.Qa4 c6 17.b4N

[Vorgänger: 17.Be3 f5 18.c5
Hoping for dxc6. Ne7 19.cxd6

A) 19...Qxd6!? 20.Rac1 Nxd5±
(20...cxd5? 21.Bc5+-);

B) 19...Nxd5 20.Bc5 Bf6 21.Qc4
Rf7 22.Qb3 Nf4 23.Rad1
½-½ (42) Ljubicic,A (2510)-
Berlinger,G (2495) ICCF email
2012]

17...f5 18.dxc6 bxc6 19.Rab1 Bf6
20.Be3 -0.19/24

[20.b5± 0.36/22 cxb5 21.cxb5]

20...e4 21.dxe4 fxe4 22.Nd2 Nh4

With the idea ...Bc3. 23.Qd1 d5

[23...Bc3 looks sharper. 24.b5 cxb5
25.cxb5 d5]

24.Bc5 Rf7 25.Rb3 -0.81/21

[25.Qg4± -0.40/20 should be
considered.]

25...Bg5 -0.25/24 Black is more active.

[Better is 25...Nf5± -0.81/21]

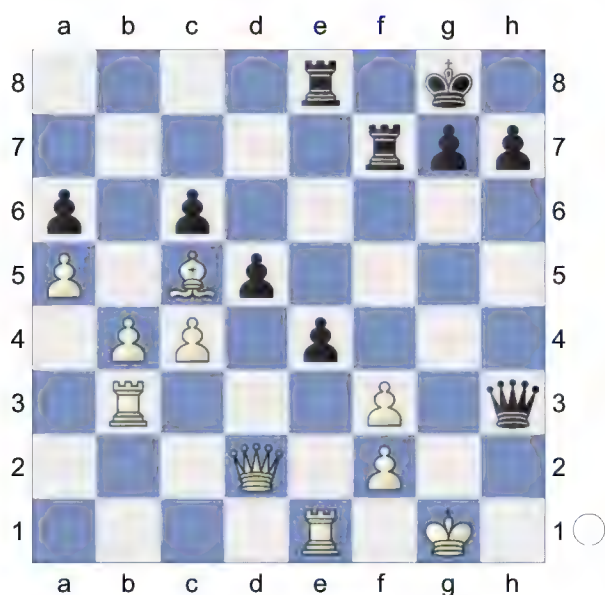
26.Qe2 -0.91/21

[26.Nf1= -0.25/24 keeps the
balance.]

26...Bxd2→ 0.06/20 White needs to
defend precisely.

[26...h6!± -0.91/21]

27.Qxd2= Nf3+ 0.81/22 28.gxf3± Qxh3

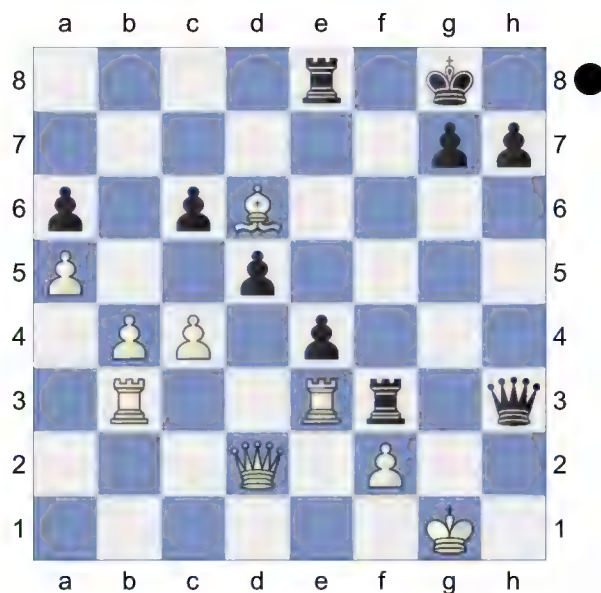


aiming for ...Rf6. **29.Ree3!** Strongly
threatening fxe4.

[29.cxd5? Rf6 30.fxe4 Qxb3+-]

29...Rxf3 30.Bd6? -7.57/25

[30.Qe2± 1.24/20 Re6 31.Rxf3 exf3
32.Rxf3 Rg6+ (32...Qg4+?
33.Kf1+-) 33.Rg3 Rxc3+ 34.fxc3
Qxc3+ 35.Kf1 Qf4+ 36.Ke1 Qc1+
37.Qd1 Qxc4 (37...Qxd1+? 38.Kxd1
dxc4 39.Kd2+-) 38.Qf3 Qc1+ 39.Kf2
Qd2+ 40.Kg3 Qg5+ 41.Qg4 Qe5+
42.Qf4 Qe1+ 43.Bf2]



30...Re6!-+ (-> ...Rg6+) 31.Qe2 Rg6+

**Weighted Error Value: White=0.64/
Black=0.17 (very precise)**

[31...Rxd6? is the wrong capture.
32.Rxf3 Qc8 (32...Qg4+? 33.Kf1+-)
33.Rg3+-]

0-1

□ Alekseenko, Kirill

C02

2650

■ Subelj, Jan

2512

Titled Tuesday intern op 23rd Jan Late bl..
[Kitty Kat]

C02: French: Advance Variation

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.e5 f6

[4...b6 5.c3 Nce7 6.Bd3 a5 7.Qe2
Nf5 8.h4 h5 9.Ng5 g6 10.Nd2 Nge7
11.Nf1 c5 12.f3 B 00/09 2000]

5.Bb5 Bd7 6.a4N 0.46/23

[6.0-0± 0.84/21]

[6.exf6 Nxf6 7.0-0 Bd6 8.Re1 0-0
9.c4 Ng4 10.Bg5 Qc8 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Shedden,
C-4. ♖c3 a6 5.c5 ♕f5 35737 S0013
www.desc-online.de 1999]

[6.Nc3 a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.0-0 Ne7
9.Re1 f5 10.h4 Qd7 11.Ne2 0-0-0
12.Nf4 35. Nimzowitsch Defence-2...
e6]

**6...a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.0-0 White is
slightly better. 8...Qd7 9.b3 0-0-0
1.05/21**

[9...Ne7± 0.57/19]

**10.Ba3 Ne7 11.Re1 Ng6 12.Bxf8
Rhxf8 13.Nbd2 0.22/18**

[13.Qe2± 0.59/19]

**13...Qf7= 14.b4 fxe5 Hoping for ...e4.
15.b5! axb5 16.axb5 Bxb5 17.dxe5
-0.49/20**

[17.Ra8+= 0.15/22 Kd7 18.Ra5]

17...Ba6 0.00/21

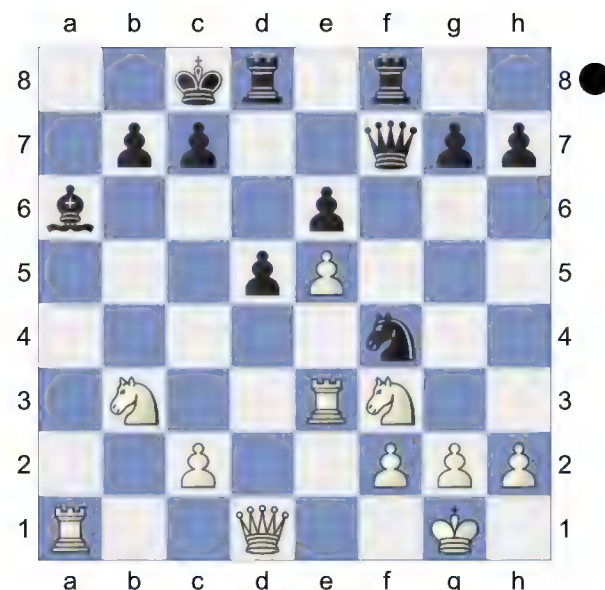
[17...Kd7 ♞ -0.49/20 was preferable.]

18.Nb3 Nf4 0.49/23

[18...Nh4!= -0.14/22 19.Nc5 Qe7
(19...Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 Qxf3 21.Nxe6=)]

19.Re3 -0.18/23

[19.Nc5± 0.49/23 Qg6 (19...Nh3+
20.gxh3 Qxf3 21.Qxf3±) 20.g3]



19...d4! Deflection 20.Nbxd4

[20.Nfxd4? Nxg2 21.Rf3 Nf4-+]

20...c5→ Black has some attack.

21.Rc3? -3.60/23

[White must play 21.Rxa6! ♞ -0.48/16
bxa6 22.Rc3]

21...Rd5? 0.00/23

[21...Ne2+ 22.Qxe2 Bxe2 23.Rxc5+
Kb8 24.Nxe2-+]

[Better is 21...Qg6-+ -3.60/23 22.g3
(22.Rxc5+? Kb8-+) 22...Ne2+
23.Qxe2 Bxe2 24.Nxe2 Kb8]

**22.Qb1! Rfd8 White must now prevent
...Kd7!**

[22...Qg6!? 23.g3 □ Rxd4 24.Rxc5+
(24.Nxd4 Nh3+ Discovered Attack,
Double Attack 25.Kh1 Qe4+ 26.f3
Nf2+ 27.Kg2 Qxd4=) 24...Kb8
25.Rxa6 (25.Nxd4 Nh3+ Discovered
Attack, Double Attack 26.Kh1 Nxf2+
27.Kg1 Nh3+ 28.Kg2 Rf2+ 29.Kh1
Qe4+) 25...Qe4 26.gxf4 (26.Nxd4?
Qg2#; 26.Ra3? Rfd8-+) 26...Qxf4
(26...Qxf3? 27.Ra8+ Decoy Kxa8
28.Qa1+-) 27.Nxd4 Qxd4=]

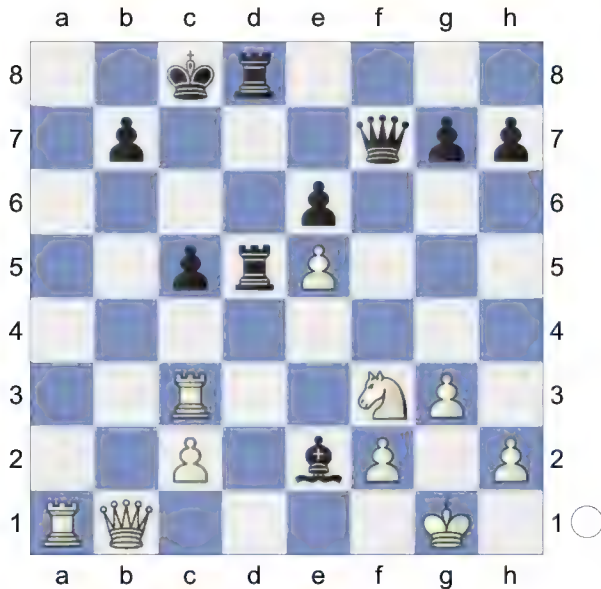
23.g3 Ne2+ 1.08/20

[23...Rxd4= 0.01/23 remains equal.
24.Nxd4 (24.gxf4? Rd1+ 25.Qxd1

(Diagram)

Rxd1+ 26.Rxd1 Qxf4; 24.Rxc5+ Kb8) 24...Nh3+ 25.Kg2 Qxf2+ 26.Kxh3 Rxd4 (26...Qxd4 27.Rxa6 bxa6 28.Qa1=)]

24.Nxe2± Bxe2



25.Kg2 0.04/20

[25.Qb6!± 1.20/20 White wants to mate with Ra8+. Rd1+ (25...Bxf3 26.Ra8+ Kd7 27.Rxd8+ Ke7 28.Qc7+ Skewer) 26.Ne1 Rxa1 27.Rxc5+ (27.Qxc5+? Kb8+) 27...Kb8 (27...Kd7? 28.Rc7+ Ke8 29.Rxf7+-) 28.Qxd8+ Ka7 29.Ra5+ Rxa5 30.Qxa5+ Ba6 31.Qc5+ b6 32.Qd4]

25...Qc7!= 26.Qa2 -0.48/21

[26.Ng5= 0.00/21 Qc6 27.f3]

26...Ba6 0.12/18

[26...Bb5± -0.48/21]

27.Qa3 -0.48/20

[27.Qa4= 0.12/18]

27...Qc6 28.Rb1 -1.34/20

[28.h4= -0.25/20]

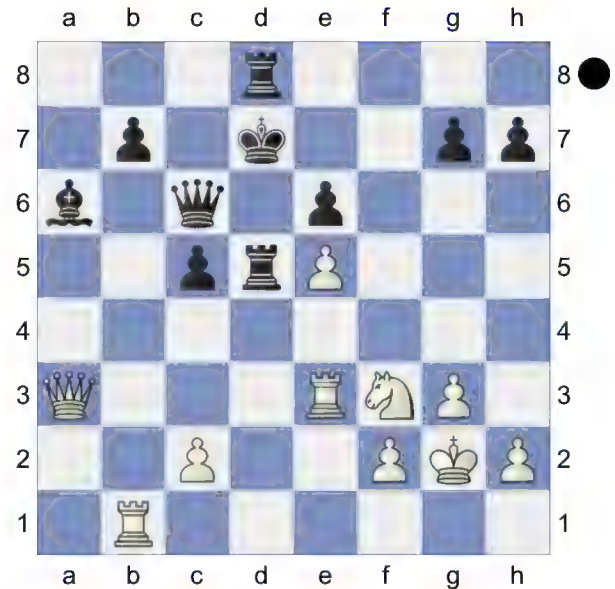
28...Kd7? 0.36/20

[Much weaker is 28...Rxe5?! 29.Re1 Red5 (29...Rxe1 30.Rxc5 Pin Bb5 31.c4±) 30.Rce3=] [28...b5± -1.34/20 29.Kh3 Kb7

(29...b4? 30.Qxb4 Bb7 31.Qa3+-)]

29.Re3? -1.41/20

[29.Rcb3!± 0.36/20 b5 30.c4 bxc4 31.Rb6]



29...Ke7 -0.75/19

[Black should play 29...b5! -1.41/20 And now ...b4 would win. 30.Qa2 c4]

30.c4? -2.39/23 Rd2? 0.00/20

[Black should try 30...Bxc4+- -2.39/23 aiming for ...b5. 31.Qa7 Bb5]

31.g4? -2.39/21

[31.Reb3= 0.00/20 and White has nothing to worry.]

31...Rf8? 0.36/20

[31...Bxc4+- -2.39/21 Threatens to win with ...R8d3. 32.Qa7 Bd5]

32.Kg3± Rdd8 0.70/23

[32...Rd7! 0.31/25]

33.Rc1 0.04/21

[33.Ng5!± 0.70/23]

33...Kf7= 34.Qb2 Kg8 35.Qb1 b6 1.14/24

[35...h6= -0.24/21]

36.h4? -1.03/21

[36.Ng5± 1.14/24 g6 37.Qe4]

36...Bb7± 37.Ng5 -#1/16

[37.Rcc3± -1.17/19]

37...Qg2#

Weighted Error Value: White=0.82/
Black=0.66

0-1

□ Karjakin,Sergey

B00

2753

■ Maghsoodloo,Parham

2688

Wch Blitz St Petersburg (10) 29.12.2018

[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5

[3...f6]

4.Nf3 e6 5.c3 Nge7 0.96/19

[5...Qd7 0.82/20 5...f6 0.34 6.Nh4
Be4!]

[5...f6± 0.39/21]

6.Nh4± Bg6 7.Nd2 f6N

[7...Nf5 8.Nxg6 hxg6 9.g3 Be7
10.Bg2 Qd7 11.Qe2 0-0-0 12.a4
Rh7 13.a5 Rdh8 14.Nf3 B 00/09-N,
N 2000]

8.exf6 White is better. 8...gxf6 9.Nxg6
Nxg6 1.16/17

[9...hxg6± 0.61/21 10.Qb3 Rb8]

10.Qb3 a6 11.g3

[11.Qxb7? Na5-+]

11...h5 1.68/20

[11...Bd6± 1.21/20]

12.Nf3 1.27/16

[12.Qxb7? Na5-+]

[Better is 12.Bd3+- 1.68/20 Kf7
13.Nf3 (13.Qxb7? Na5-+)]

12...Bd6 13.Bd3

[13.Qxb7? Na5-+]

13...Nge7 14.Nh4

[14.Qxb7? Na5-+]

14...Kd7 15.0-0

[15.Qxb7? Na5 16.Bb5+ axb5
17.Qxb5+ c6-+]

15...Qg8 16.Re1 0.28/21

[16.Qxb7? Na5 17.Bb5+ axb5
18.Qxb5+ c6-+]

[16.Kh1± 0.92/18]

16...Na5 0.90/22

[16...f5= 0.28/21]

17.Qa4+ Nac6 18.b4 e5 1.47/20

[18...f5 0.71/18]

19.dxe5 0.99/20

[19.Bf1 1.47/20]

19...fxe5 20.b5 0.47/17 White has more
active pieces.

[20.Bf1± 1.19/19]

20...axb5± 21.Qxb5 e4 0.82/17

[21...Qg4± 0.39/19
is more appropriate.]

22.Bf1± Qe6 1.34/18

[Black should try 22...Qg4 0.75/21]



Prevents Bh3. 23.c4!

[23.Qxb7? Rhb8-+]

23...Ra5 24.cxd5

[24.Qxb7? Rb8-+]

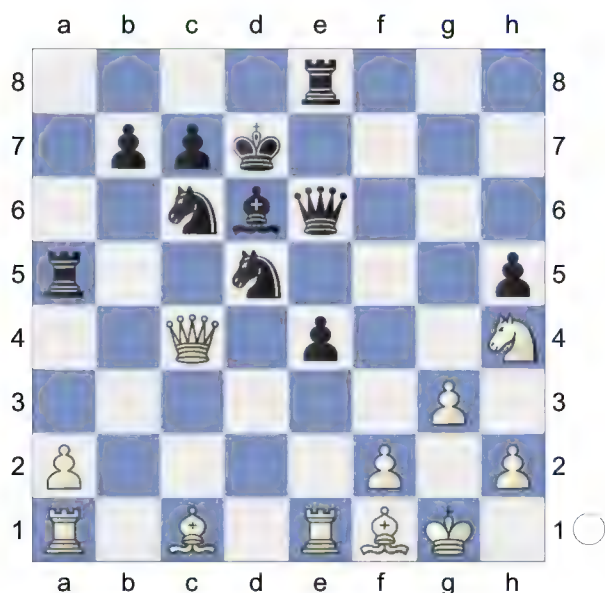
24...Nxd5 25.Qc4 0.89/16

[25.Qxb7? too greedy. Rb8-+]

[25.Qb1 1.27/18 Nc3 26.Qc2
(26.Qxb7? Rb8-+)]

25...Re8? 2.47/18

[25...Nf6± 0.89/16 is a better defense.]



This move loses the game for Black.

26.Rxe4!+- Deflection **26...Nb6?** 4.11/19

[26...Qxe4? perishes. 27.Bh3+-]

[26...Ne5 2.04/11]

27.Qxe6+

[Less strong is 27.Rxe6 Nxc4
28.Rxe8 Kxe8 29.Bxc4 b5+-]

27...Rxe6 28.Bh3 Pin **28...Rae5**
29.Rxe5 Bxe5 30.Rb1 White is clearly
winning. **30...Kd6 31.Ba3+ Kd5**
32.Rb5+ Kc4 33.Rc5+ Kd4 34.Bxe6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very
precise) /Black=0.52

1-0

□ Ernst,Sipke

B01

2538

■ Van Wely,Loek

2629

Bundesliga 2223 (8.6)

25.02.2023

[Kitty Kat]

B01: Scandinavian Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nf3
e5

[4...Bg4 5.Be2 0-0-0 6.Be3 Bxf3
7.Bxf3 Qb5 8.b3 e5 9.c4 Qa5+
10.Bd2 Bb4 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Qg4+
Kb7 13.Qxg7 Bxd2+ 14.Nxd2 Ne7
15.Qxe5 Qxe5+ 16.dxe5 Ng6
17.0-0-0 Nxe5 18.Ne4 Kb6 19.Kc2
0-1 (28) 6. ♖c4 e6 7. ♘1e2 ♘f6 8. ♙
(2225)-10. ♙f1 dc4 (1793) Krasnaya
Polyana (m/2) 149/50 2021 (4)]

5.dxe5N

[5.c4 Qe4+ 6.Be3 exd4 7.Nxd4
Bb4+ 8.Nc3 Nf6]

[5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.Bxc3 e4
(7...Bg4 8.dxe5 Nge7 9.Be2 0-0-0
10.0-0 Qxd1 11.Bxd1 Nd5 12.Ng5
Bxd1 13.Raxd1 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Nxe5
15.Rxd8+ Rxd8 16.f4 Nc4 17.Nxf7
Rd2 18.Rf2 Rd1+ 19.Rf1 Rd2
20.Rf2 Rd1+ 21.Rf1 Ne3 22.Rxd1
(60) Brueggemann,J-Gauglitz,G 40/
(187) German Democratic Republic
1985) 8.Ne5 Nxe5 9.dxe5 Ne7
10.Be2 (10.Qxd5 Nxd5 11.Ba5 Be6
12.0-0-0 0-0-0 13.Rd4 e3 14.c4
Nb6 15.Bxb6 cxb6 16.fxe3 b5 17.b3
Kb8 18.Kd2 b4 19.Bd3 Rc8 20.Rf1
Rhe8 21.Bf5 Bxf5 22.Rxf5 Re7
23.Kd3 b6 24.Rd5 Kb7 1-0 (39)
Woelfelschneider,P (2459)-197.
(2339) corr ICCF XIV Olympiad board
3 2001 (6)) 10...Be6 11.Qxd5 Nxd5
12.Bd2 0-0 13.0-0 Rfe8 14.c4 Ne7
15.f4 exf3 16.gxf3 Nf5 17.Rf2 Rad8
18.Bf1 Rd7 19.Re1 h6 0-1 (65)
Tarrasch,S-Nimzowitsch,A Bad
Kissingen 113091 1928]

5...Qxd1+ 6.Kxd1 Bg4 7.Be2

[7.Bf4 Nge7 8.Bd3 0-0-0 9.Ke2
-1.51/23 (9.Nbd2!; 9.Kc1 -0.82/19
9.Nbd2 -0.42; 9.Nbd2!f -0.51/23)
9...Ng6f (9...Nd5 10.Bg3 Ndb4)
10.Bxg6 -2.07/19 (10.Bg5 -1.65/19
Re8 11.Kf1) 10...Nd4+!-+ 11.Ke3

-2.49/21 (Δ 11.Kf1 -1.93/21 hxg6
12.Nbd2) 11...Bxf3 -1.09/23
1/2-1/2 (33) Carlsson,L (2369)-Kollars,D
(2621) Stavanger 2021 (11...Bc5+
-2.49/21 12.b4 Nxc2+ 13.Ke2 Nd4+
14.Kf1 hxg6 15.bxc5 Nxf3) 12.Bd3
-2.04/22 (12.c3 $\mp$ -1.09/23 Bxg2
13.cxd4 hxg6 14.Rg1 Rh3+ 15.Bg3)
12...Bxg2-+ 13.Rg1 Bc6 ...Bc5 is the
strong threat. 14.c3 Nf3! 15.Rg3?
-3.51/22 (15.Rd1 -1.99/18
keeps fighting. Bc5+ 16.Ke2)
15...Bc5+ 16.Ke2 Nxe5 17.Bxe5
Rhe8! 18.f4 f6 19.Rxg7? -3.84/21
(19.Nd2 -1.77/18) 19...fxe5-+ 20.f5
Bf3+ 21.Kxf3 Black must now prevent
Ke2. Rxd3+ 22.Ke2 Rh3 -1.75/17
(Δ 22...Re3+ -3.40/17 23.Kf1 Rf8)
23.Rg2-+ Rf8 24.b4 -2.95/22
(Δ 24.Nd2 -1.76/18) 24...Bb6 25.c4?
-5.23/18 (25.a4 -2.28/18 is a better
defense. a5 26.bxa5 Bxa5 27.Ra2)
25...Bd4]

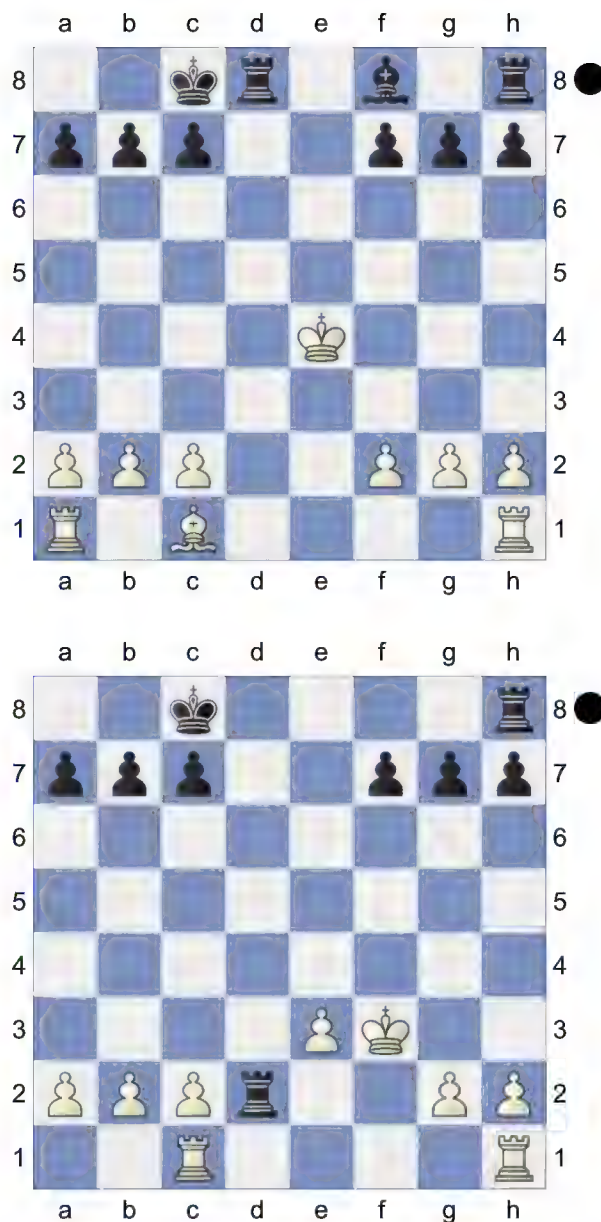
7...0-0-0+ 8.Nbd2 Bxf3
Remove Defender 9.Bxf3 Black is
slightly better. 9...Nxe5 10.Ke2 Nf6
11.Ne4 -0.86/18 Wards off Bc5
[11.Nb3 $\mp$ -0.38/21]
11...Nxf3 $\mp$ 12.Kxf3 Nxe4 13.Kxe4

(Diagram)

Bc5! 14.Kf3 Rd5 -0.55/23 Black is
more active.

[14...Rd6 $\mp$ -0.96/24 Strongly
threatening ...Rf6+. 15.Bg5 Rd5]
15.Be3 -1.63/22 The modern move.
Der moderne Zug.
[15.g3 $\mp$ -0.55/23]
15...Bxe3-+ 16.fxe3 Endgame. KRR-
KRR 16...Rd2 17.Rac1

(Diagram)



Rhd8! 18.g4 R8d6 19.Kg3 Re6!?
Leaves trodden paths. Verlässt die
ausgetretenen Pfade. 20.Rhe1 f6
21.Kf3 -2.81/24

[Δ 21.h4 -1.81/22]
21...Rxh2 22.Rh1N Rxh1 23.Rxh1-+
KR-KR 23...h6 24.Rh2 Kd7 25.Kf4
Rd6 26.Rg2 Ke6 27.Re2 Rd1 28.Rg2
b5 29.a3 a5 30.Ke4 Rb1 31.c3 Rd1
32.Rc2 Rg1 33.Kf4 Rf1+ 34.Ke4 f5+
35.gxf5+ Rxf5 36.b4 Rh5 37.bxa5
Rh4+ 38.Kf3 Ra4 Predecessor: 39.c4?
-4.56/23

[39.Rg2 -2.34/20 Kf7 (39...Rxa5 40.Rxg7 Kd6 41.Ke2 $\bar{7}$) 40.Rd2]

39...bxc4 Black is clearly winning.

[39...Rxa5 40.cxb5 Rxb5 41.Rxc7 $\bar{7}$]

40.a6 Ke5

[40...Rxa6 41.Rxc4 Kd7 (41...Rxa3 42.Rxc7 Kf6 43.Rc6+ Kg5 44.Rc7 $\bar{7}$) 42.a4 $\bar{7}$]

41.Rc1 c5

[41...Rxa6 42.Rxc4 Rf6+ (42...Rxa3 43.Rxc7 Kf6 44.Rc6+ Kf5 45.Rc5+ Kf6 46.Rc6+ Kf5 47.Rc5+ Kf6 48.Rc6+ $\bar{7}$) 43.Ke2 $\bar{7}$]

42.a7 Rxa7 43.Rxc4 Kd5

[43...Rxa3 44.Rxc5+ Kd6 45.Rc4 $\bar{7}$]

44.Rf4 c4 45.Rf8 c3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.17 (very precise)

0-1

□ Saric,Ivan

■ Jovanovic,Zoran

Croatian Team Championship 06.2022

[D Fernandez,Kitty Kat]

B00

2693

2523

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6

[1...d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 Bg4 7.Be3 Nc6 8.d5 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Ne5 10.Be2 This sequence is a much more usual way of reaching a position that occurs later in the file.]

[Tangentially related: a couple of days before sending this update I played a game with the experimental 1...e5 2.Nc3 Bb4!? 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 Nc6 5.dxe5 (5.Bb5!?) 5...Nxe5 6.Nxe5 dxe5 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 8.Bc4 (8.Bg5+!? might improve) 8...Be6!?

9.Bg5+ Ke8 10.Bxe6 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 fxe6 $\pm$, a sequence which has every right to be classified within B00-B19. My feeling is that Black should probably be able to neutralise the pressure and the structural imbalance gives enough play that three results might eventually be up for grabs. Smerdon, D- Fernandez, D Brisbane 2022]

2.Nf3 d6

[A great many years ago, Black would sometimes use this order (I believe Anand did it a few times) to play 2...e5 and claim to have avoided the Bishop's Opening, Vienna and King's Gambit.]

3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg4 It is very easy to dismiss Black's position, and I have done myself a few times before. When it actually comes to proving a big advantage for White, however, life is not that straightforward. It tends to be good advice to just be happy with a +0.5, rather than becoming frustrated that the +1 promised by machines everywhere is hard to retain beyond the next 3-4 moves. **5.Bb5** One of many moves which are often played and lead to some advantage for White. However, the path is not so obvious.

[5.Be2 is less ambitious, and safer. White won't keep the bishop pair but rather just a slightly better bishop in most cases. g6 6.d5 Bxf3 7.Bxf3 (7.gxf3 Nb8 8.Be3 $\pm$) 7...Ne5 8.Be2 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be3 The usual move-order for attaining this position is given in the 1...d6 note. c6 11.f4 Ned7 12.dxc6 bxc6 White should have some advantage here, but with a well-timed ...e5 break Black can certainly make things quite confusing.

Li, R-Petrosian,T Saint Louis 2017]
[5.Bg5!? is not a move that gives a very cultured impression, but seems none the worse for that.]

[5.Be3 e6 (5...a6 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Nd5±) 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 d5 8.0-0-0! (8.e5 Nd7 Both knights look rather odd on the c-file and White struggles to get anything going before Black plays ... c5, e.g. 9.a3 Ne7 10.g4 c5∞ Sokolov,I-Mestrovic,Z Bihac 1999) 8...dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Qxe4 Qd5 11.Qxd5 exd5 12.c3± White has a nice stable plus right now, although the final result had more to do with a strange move-80 blunder by Black. Carlsson, P-Zakarian,D Kalamaria 2008]

[5.d5 should best be met by ...Nb8, as otherwise some forcing variations can follow which are none too pleasant for Black. Ne5 (5...Nb8 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 g6 8.g4!→ But also here, Black's task is not simple. Firouzja,A-Bachmann,A INT 2020) 6.Bb5+ (6.Nxe5 Bxd1 7.Bb5+ c6 8.dxc6 dxe5 9.c7+ Qd7 10.Bxd7+ Kxd7 11.Kxd1 Kxc7 12.f3± and White can claim a small advantage based on Black's central structure. Savanovic,A-Masic,P Belgrade 2021) 6...c6 (6...Ned7 is likely preferable. 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 g6 9.0-0 Bg7 10.Re1 0-0 11.a4 c6 and while a draw was agreed in Anand,V-Miles,A Cannes 1989, it seems that White can still claim an opening advantage. 12.Bf1±) 7.dxc6 (7.Nxe5!?) 7...Nxc6□ 8.e5 dxe5 9.Qxd8+ Rxd8 10.Bxc6+! (10.Nxe5 Bd7 11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Nxc6 bxc6± is a bit less convincing. Makarichev,S-

Kroll,O Groningen 1973) 10...bxc6 11.Nxe5 Bd7 12.Be3 Nd5 13.Bxa7 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Be6 15.a4 f6 16.Nxc6± and White later converted the two extra pawns, in a rather well played game by the Dutchman. Timman,J-Miles,A Tilburg 1981]

5...a6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.h3 Usually it makes sense to chase such bishops exactly once, giving White the flexibility to break the pin unilaterally later. **7...Bh5 8.Qe2**

[The second most common move 8.0-0 seems to cede a big part of White's advantage. e6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.Qd3 Tabatabaei,M-Bachmann,A INT 2020 h6!±]

[8.Bg5 Rb8 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Rb1 Qc8 11.Qd3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Bg7 13.0-0 0-0 14.Ne2 Kh8 15.Ng3 Rg8 16.Rfe1 Rb5 17.Nf5 Qf8 18.d5 c5 19.b3 Bh6 20.Rbd1 a5 21.Qd3 Rb4 22.a3 Rb6 1-0 (40) Logan,T (2605)-5...Qf6 6.Nb5 (2500) Cheliabinsk 1959]

8...e6 9.g4 Bg6 10.h4N 0.24/21 An inaccuracy, but one which had been played previously by another 2600 and also echoed by Gawain Jones. White is more active.

[10.Bg5 seems most accurate, with the idea being not so much the pinning but rather the simple elimination of the f6-knight. The centre is probably going to close soon and White would much rather be the only one with knights. And now e5 would win. Be7

A) Best was 11.Bxf6! Bxf6 12.0-0-0± as in Ehlvest,J-Gonzales, J Calvia 2004, followed by pushing the kingside pawns as fast as possible. In this case, h4 and ...h5

is no longer liable to shut down the entire kingside. (12.Qc4 Qd7 13.0-0-0 B 00/06 2000);

B) 11.0-0-0 looks appealing as well, but allows Black a tactic: Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxe4 13.Bxe7 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Kxe7 15.Qxc6 Groszpeter, A-Miles,A Andorra 1995 d5!=;

C) 11.Bxf6± 0.63/22 Bxf6 12.0-0-0;

D) 11.h4?! -0.22/21 11...h5!= 12.gxh5 Bxh5= 13.0-0-0 d5 14.e5 Nd7 15.Rdg1 and here in Jones,G-Gormally,D England 2010, Black inexplicably chose ...Kf8 rather than the very natural c5 giving excellent counterplay against White's centre.]

[10.Bg5± 0.63/19 is more appropriate. Be7 11.0-0-0 h6 12.Bf4 Qb8 13.Kb1 Qb4 14.Bc1 Rb8 15.b3 Qxc3 16.Bd2 Nxe4 17.Be1 0-0 0-1 Ligterink,G-Miles,A Wijk aan Zee 1984]

10...h5!= 11.g5 Nd7 White's pawn breaks are not really working here or for the next few moves, since Black can keep the centre more or less closed in each case. **12.Qc4** White has an edge.

[Maybe the best opportunity to execute one was right here. 12.d5 cxd5 (12...c5?! 0.67/22 12...cxd5 0.25 was played in the only preceding game, Grieve, H-Wager,J Coventry 2015.) 13.exd5 e5 14.Nd4↑ Intending Nc6 and f4, and Black at least has to devote some attention to keeping the position closed.]

12...Nb8

[12...d5 feels hotter. 13.Qxc6 Bd6 14.exd5 Rb8]

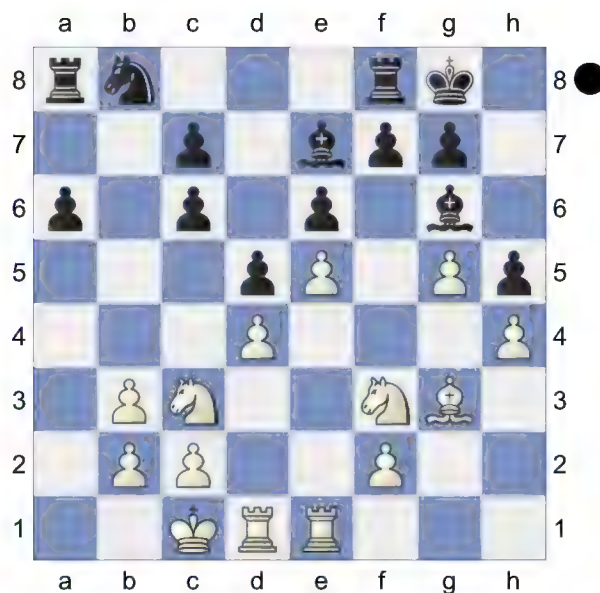
13.Bf4 -0.10/23

[13.Qe2 0.27/22]

13...Be7 14.0-0-0 Qc8 Black is weak on the dark squares **15.Rhe1 0-0 16.Bg3 Qb7** Black has equalised and more or less completed development. Next can be ...Nd7, ...a5, and then on their own time Black will decide whether to push ...c5 or ...d5, or indeed just keep deploying more pieces to the queenside in deference to the opposite-side castling. **17.Qb3** Again, the breaks don't really work and so White opts to go into an endgame. Nothing too much of note to us happens in the endgame, so I will just confine myself to remarking that while objectively essentially equal, Black's play looked significantly easier since the bishop pair was more readily utilised than the slight weakness of the doubled c-pawns.

[17.d5 -0.49/21 17.Nd2 0.00 cxd5 18.exd5 e5!±]

[17.e5 d5 18.Qb3 Qxb3 19.axb3



c5!±]

17...Qxb3 18.axb3 Nd7 19.Nd2 f5 20.gxf6 gxf6 21.Nc4 a5 22.Kd2 Nb6 0.00/22

[22...f5± -0.40/22 23.exf5 Bxf5]

23.Ra1 Nxc4+ 24.bxc4 f5 25.exf5

[25.e5 is interesting. f4 26.exd6 fxg3
27.dxe7 Rxf2+ 28.Re2]

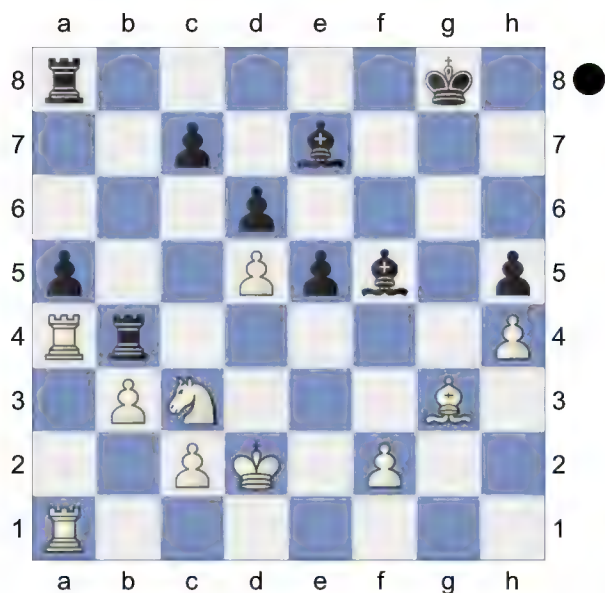
25...Bxf5 26.d5 cxd5 27.cxd5 e5

Of course, Black is still not keen to open the position to any meaningful extent.

28.Ra4

[It was natural to consider 28.f4 but probably the liquidation approach would just lead to the position fizzling out if Black desires .exf4 (28...Rfb8!?) 29.Rxe7 fxg3 30.Rg1 Rf7 31.Rxg3+ Bg4=]

28...Rfb8 29.b3 Rb4 30.Rea1



Strongly threatening Rxb4. 30...Rxa4 31.Rxa4 Bd7 This pair of bishops is nice. 32.Ra3 Kf7 33.Kd3 Bf5+ 34.Kd2 Bd7 35.Nd1 c6 36.Ne3 cxd5 37.Nxd5 Bc6 -0.01/23

[Against a lesser mortal it was possible to keep trying to win: 37...Bd8! intending ...Ke6 and ...Bc6. White's g3-bishop remains tied down and now Black's rook has been freed from its defensive duties.]

[37...Bd8! -0.70/27]

38.Nxe7

Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very

precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)
1/2-1/2

□ Anand,Viswanathan

B00

2783

■ Rapport,Richard

2686

Bundesliga 1718 (10.2)

25.02.2018

[Justin Tan,Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 Ashwin Jayaram: 'A move that is virtually unplayed at the top levels, with the exception of rapid games. This line has the potential to get some new positions, although Black will need to be used to bringing the knight back to b8 after d4-d5. There are some ideas here, which I will try to demonstrate.' Ashwin Jayaram: 'A move that is virtually unplayed at the top levels, with the exception of rapid games. This line has the potential to get some new positions, although Black will need to be used to bringing the knight back to b8 after d4-d5. There are some ideas here, which I will try to demonstrate.' **2.d4**

[2.Nf3 d6 is an interesting idea. Black transposes to the Pirc but manages to avoid the two most dangerous lines there, the f3-line and the f4-line. A possible position is Ashwin Jayaram: 'is an interesting idea. Black transposes to the Pirc but manages to avoid the two most dangerous lines there, the f3-line and the f4-line. A possible position is' (2...e5 transposes to a popular position that some players may be familiar with Ashwin Jayaram: 'transposes to a popular position that some players may be familiar with')

3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Be2 Bg7
which will be covered in the next
game]

2...d5

[2...e5 is also possible. Obviously,
Black will have to be fine with playing
the Scotch, but he also has to be
prepared for some other options. It
would seem as though 2...d5 is
preferable to 2...e5 Ashwin Jayaram:
'is also possible. Obviously, Black will
have to be fine with playing the Scotch,
but he also has to be prepared for
some other options. It would seem as
though 2...d5 is preferable to 2...e5'
3.d5 (3.dxe5 is also quite interesting
Nxe5 4.Nf3 looks like an improved
Scotch) 3...Nce7 4.Nf3 Ng6 5.h4
is very interesting]

3.e5! Ashwin Jayaram: 'This position is
virtually unexplored. It is very similar to
an advanced Caro-Kann, except that
here Black has no plans with ...c7-c5.
Instead, Black has ideas of ...f7-f6'
Ashwin Jayaram: 'This position is
virtually unexplored. It is very similar to
an advanced Caro-Kann, except that
here Black has no plans with ...c7-c5.
Instead, Black has ideas of ...f7-f6'

[3.Nc3 is an interesting move that
poses some problems for Black
Ashwin Jayaram: 'is an interesting
move that poses some problems for
Black' dxe4 (3...e5 is a funny
position, although this isn't very great
for Black Ashwin Jayaram: 'is a funny
position, although this isn't very great
for Black' 4.dxe5 d4 5.Nd5) 4.d5
Ne5 (The thematic 4...Nb8
may be better, as the knight on e5
gives White some extra tempi 5.Nxe4
Nf6 6.Nxf6+ exf6 is a fresh position
that looks playable for Black) 5.Bf4

(5.Qd4 Ng6 6.Qxe4 Bd7
looks like its a little better for White)
5...Ng6 6.Bg3 a6 needs further
analysis]

[3.exd5 Qxd5 is a direct transposition
to a line in the Scandinavian. This
line deserves a game of its own, and I
will try to analyse it in depth soon.
Ashwin Jayaram: 'is a direct
transposition to a line in the
Scandinavian. This line deserves a
game of its own, and I will try to
analyse it in depth soon.']

3...Bf5 Other moves are also dealt with
in a logical fashion.

[3...f6 Ashwin Jayaram: 'immediately,
is also an interesting option' Ashwin
Jayaram: 'immediately, is also an
interesting option' 4.f4 (4.Bb5
is also intriguing) 4...Nh6 5.Nf3 (5.c3
Bf5 White has some advantage, but
Black is not without his play) 5...Bg4
6.c3 e6 7.Bd3↑]

[3...e6 4.Nf3 Nge7 5.c3 Nf5 6.Bd3
Be7 1-0 (56) Jansa,V (2499)-Markos,J
(2546) Czechia 2011 7.0-0 h5 8.b4
a5 9.b5 Nb8 10.a4 Nd7 11.Re1±]

[3...h5 4.c3

A) 4...Bg4 0-1 (26) Starkov,S
(2198)-Vlassov,N (2471) Kemerovo
2014 5.Qb3 Na5 6.Qa4+ Nc6
7.Qb5!? Rb8 (7...Qd7 8.h3 Bf5
9.Qxb7 Rb8 10.Qa6 Rb6 11.Qe2
f6 12.Nf3) 8.Bd3 a6 9.Qb3±;

B) 4...Bf5 5.Bd3 Qd7 6.Nf3 Bxd3
7.Qxd3 e6 8.0-0 0-0-0 9.b4
White's attack is too quick. f6
0-1 (46) Drozdowski,K (2311) -
Arutinian,D (2562) Olomouc 2011
(9...Be7 10.a4 Nh6 11.Bxh6
Rxh6 12.Qe3±) 10.Nbd2

B1) 10...g5 11.exf6 g4
(11...Nxf6 12.Nxg5 Rg8

13.f4+-) 12.Ne5 Qh7 13.b5
Qxd3 14.Nxd3 Nb8 15.f7 Nh6
16.Re1+-;

B2) 10...fxe5 11.dxe5 g5
(11...Nh6 12.Nb3 Nf7
13.Re1+-) 12.Nxg5 Nh6
(12...Nxe5 13.Qd4+-)
13.Nb3+-]

[Considering that Black will be relying on ...f7-f6 for counterplay, Ashwin Jayaram: 'Considering that Black will be relying on ...f7-f6 for counterplay,' 3...a6 makes a lot of sense. Ashwin Jayaram: 'makes a lot of sense.']

4.c3

[4.Nf3 may not be the best plan. Considering that Black is planning ...f7-f6, it makes sense to have the pawn on f4 Ashwin Jayaram: 'may not be the best plan. Considering that Black is planning ...f7-f6, it makes sense to have the pawn on f4' e6 (4...Qd7 5.Bd3 f6 6.0-0 0-0-0 7.c3 g5 8.Re1 h5 1/2-1/2 (46) Sandler,L (2228)-Short,N (2671) Ballarat 2016 With a very interesting position after only 8 moves Ashwin Jayaram: 'X-X (46) Sandler,L (2228)-Short,N (2671) Ballarat 2016 With a very interesting position after only 8 moves') 5.Be2 f6 and it looks like Black has equalised out of the opening]

4...e6

[4...f6!?]

5.Nd2

[I've also examined 5.Be2!? with the intention to meet f6 6.f4 g5 with 7.Bh5+ however, even here, Black gets what he wants: a messy position. Kd7! (7...Bg6 is not too convincing in this version. 8.Nh3 gxf4 9.Nxf4 fxe5 10.Bxg6+ hxg6 11.Nxg6 Rh7 12.dxe5) 8.fxg5 fxe5 9.Nf3

A) 9...exd4 10.Nxd4↑;

B) 9...Bd6 is also interesting.
10.Nxe5+ Nxe5 11.dxe5 Bxe5
12.Be3 h6 13.Nd2 (13.g4 Bxb1
14.Rxb1 hxg5 15.0-0 Nf6 16.Bxg5
Qg8 17.Bxf6 Rxh5 18.Bxe5 Rxe5
19.Qf3) 13...hxg5 14.g4

B1) not 14...Bf4?! 15.Bxf4 gxf4
16.Qa4+ Kc8 17.0-0-0!↑
(17.Qxf4? Qh4+ 18.Qf2 Qxf2+
19.Kxf2 Kd7∞);

B2) 14...Rxh5! 15.gxh5 g4
16.Nc4 Bf6☹;

C) Yet another worthy alternative is the direct 9...e4 10.Nh4

C1) 10...Bd6?! 11.0-0 Nge7
12.Na3!

C1a) 12...Bxa3 13.bxa3 b6
(13...Na5?! 14.Qa4+ c6
15.Be2+-) 14.Be2±;

C1b) 12...a6 13.c4!
In this line, White successfully pries open the centre. Bxa3
14.Nxf5 exf5 (14...Nxf5
15.cxd5!+-) 15.bxa3 now if
dxc4 16.Bb2 Nd5 White is
winning after 17.Rxf5 Kc8
18.Qg4 Ne3 19.Qxe4 Nxf5
20.Qxf5+ Kb8 21.d5 Rf8
22.Bf6+-;

C2) 10...Nge7 11.0-0 Bg7
12.a4 Qg8 13.Nd2 Bg6 14.Bg4
Rf8 15.Nb3 b6 16.Nxg6 hxg6
17.Bf4 Rxf4 18.Rxf4 Nf5☹;

D) 9...h6!? Benko style! 10.g4
Bxb1 (10...Be4 11.Nbd2 Bxf3
12.Nxf3 e4 13.Nh4 is similar.)
11.Rxb1 e4 12.Nh4 Bd6
(12...hxg5 13.Ng6 Rh7 14.0-0
Bd6 transposes.) 13.Ng6 Rh7
14.0-0 hxg5 transposes. 15.Qe2↑
Rg7 16.Be3 Nge7 17.Nf8+ Qxf8
18.Rxf8 Rxf8 Black has good

compensation as the bishop on h5 is essentially a non-piece.]

[5.Be3 looks natural, but Black has his counterplay after f6 6.f4 Nh6 White will always have to be wary of ... Nh6-g4 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 (9.Nbd2?! Ng4 10.Bg1 fxe5 11.fxe5 Qe8 is fine for Black) 9...Be4 ∞ (9...Ng4 10.Bc1 Qe8)]

5...a6 Not a bad move per se, but probably not the best. Ashwin Jayaram: 'preventing Bb5 ideas, but this may be a little slow' Ashwin Jayaram: 'preventing Bb5 ideas, but this may be a little slow'

[The rare variation 5...f6 6.f4 (Unclear is 6.Ngf3 fxe5 7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.dxe5 Bc5 9.Nb3 Bb6)

A) 6...Nh6 is natural, albeit unthreatening. Ashwin Jayaram: 'with positions similar to ones we've previously seen' 7.Ngf3

A1) 7...Qd7 8.Be2 0-0-0 **1.34/19** (8...Be7 9.0-0 fxe5 10.fxe5 Nd8 0-1 (59) Heinrich,O (2414)-Kleinert,S (2485) Remote email 2012 11.b4 Ndf7 12.Nb3 $\uparrow$; 8...Be7 $\pm$ **0.67/24**) 9.b4 $\rightarrow$;

A2) 7...fxe5 8.fxe5 Be7 9.Be2;

A3) 7...Be7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 a5 10.a4 Bg6 11.Nb3 $\pm$ Considering we aim for the same type of structures in the Caro-Kann Defence, White should be very pleased with the outcome of the opening here.;

B) 6...fxe5 **1.05/21** 6...g5 0.50 7.fxe5 Nh6 8.Ndf3 Nf7 9.Bd3 g6 **1.36/23** ($\triangle$ 9...Qd7 **0.97/22**) 10.Ne2 $\pm$ Qd7 11.0-0 $\pm$;

C) 6...g5!? merits serious theoretical consideration. Ashwin Jayaram: 'looks risky. The position

after'

C1) 7.Bb5 leads to a murky position after gxf4 8.Ndf3 Ashwin Jayaram: 'looks very unpleasant for Black' (8.Qh5+ Bg6 9.Qg4 Bf5 10.Qxf4 fxe5 11.Qxe5 Nf6) 8...fxe5

C1a) 9.Nxe5 **-0.06/20** 9.Bxc6+ 0.40 Qh4+ 10.Kf1 Nge7! 11.Ngf3 Qh5 $\rightleftharpoons$ (11...Qf6 is not too bad for Black);

C1b) 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.dxe5 Ashwin Jayaram: 'is better for White, but it is not a clear advantage, and Black still has his counterplay' Ashwin Jayaram: 'is better for White, but it is not a clear advantage, and Black still has his counterplay' Ne7 11.Ne2! Ng6 12.Nxf4 **-0.21/19** (12.0-0 $\pm$ **0.31/20**) 12...Nxf4= 13.Bxf4 Bc5;

C2) 7.Qh5+

C2a) 7...Bg6 8.Qh3 Qd7 9.Ngf3 gxf4 10.Bb5 0-0-0 11.Nh4 Threatening to win a piece.

C2a1) 11...Bh5 12.Nb3 fxe5 13.dxe5 a6 (13...d4 **0.95/19** 13...a6 0.22 14.Bc4) 14.Bxc6 Qxc6 15.0-0 Bc5+ 16.Nxc5! Qxc5+ 17.Kh1 $\pm$;

C2a2) 11...Nh6 12.Ndf3! White is starting to gain control over the position. Be7 (12...f5 13.Bxf4 Nf7 14.b4 Be7 15.a4 Kb8 16.0-0 Rdg8 17.Nd2 $\pm$ White's only issue is that a couple of his pieces, namely

the queen on h3 and the knight on h4, are offside. The next moves therefore are Nhf3 and Qg3. Positionally, White is clearly better. His queenside pressure is easily increased, while Black's kingside play is comparatively static.) 13.Bxf4 Nf5 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.0-0 Nxf4 16.Nxf4 Be4 17.Bg3 Rdf8 18.Rad1 Rhg8 19.Bd3± After White exchanges the light-squared bishops, the e6-pawn becomes an easy target.;

C2b) and now 7...Kd7!? is unnatural, but quite playable. 8.Ndf3 (8.Nb3 gxf4 9.Nf3 Qe8 10.Qxe8+ Rxe8 11.Bxf4 h5∞)

C2b1) is a worthy alternative. 8...Bg6 9.Qh3 Bf5 10.g4 Be4 (10...Bg6?? 2.03/18 10...Be4 0.34 11.f5 Bf7 12.exf6+-) 11.Ne2!

C2b11) 11...gxf4?! is probably connected to a blunder: 12.Nxf4 fxe5?! (Objectively better is 12...Qe8 but Black's position is unenviable after 13.Bb5) 13.Nxe6! Kxe6 0.08/18 (13...Qf6± 0.84/21 14.Neg5 exd4 15.Nxe4 Qe7 Pin) 14.Ng5+= Kd7! 15.Nxe4 and it is dangerous to take the piece on account of the exposed king.

C2b111) 15...Kc8

1.44/22 15...dxe4 0.51 however, is not much better. 16.Nc5 And now g5+ would win. Kb8 (16...Bxc5 17.dxc5) 17.Ne6 Qc8 18.g5+- 1.36/21 (18.Nxf8+- 1.88/22 Qxf8 19.dxe5);

C2b112) 15...dxe4 16.d5!

C2b1121) 16...Nb4? 2.91/20 16...Nce7 1.06 17.g5+ Ke8 18.Qh5+ Ke7 (18...Kd7 4.45/18 18...Ke7 2.82 19.Bh3++-)

19.cxb4+-; **C2b1122)** 16...Nce7 17.g5+ Ke8 18.Bb5+ c6 19.dxc6! bxc6 20.Be2 Ng6 (20...Qd7 1.93/22 20...Ng6 0.73 21.Bg4) 21.Be3! N8e7 22.Rd1 Dodge Qd6 Qc7 23.0-0!;

C2b12) 11...fxe5 12.fxe5 Be7! 13.Rg1 h5 14.Nd2! Bh7 (14...Bc2 may be the best move, but only engines are able to appreciate it. 15.Ng3! Nh6! 16.Nxf5 Bg6 17.Be2! Qg8! 18.Qg2 Qh7) 15.Qxh5 Nh6 16.Qh3! Qg8 17.Qe3 Rf8 18.h3±;

C2b2) 8...gxf4

C2b21) 9.Bxf4 a6

Wards off Bb5 (9...Qe8
10.Qxe8+ Rxe8 11.Bb5
a6 12.Bxc6+ Kxc6
13.Ne2±) 10.Ne2

C2b211) Or 10...Qe8

11.Qxe8+ Rxe8
12.Ng3 Bg6

when Black is
marginally worse, for
instance 13.Be2

(13.b4!? Bh6 14.Bxh6
Nhx6 15.b5 axb5
16.Bxb5±) 13...Bg7

14.exf6 Nxf6 15.0-0
Ne4 16.Nxe4 Bxe4
17.Ng5 Bf5 18.Bh5
Bg6 19.Bxg6 hxg6
20.Rad1;

C2b212) 10...Bg7

11.exf6 Nxf6 12.Qf7+
Qe7 13.Qxe7+ Nxe7
14.Ne5+ Kc8

in this version, Black
has reasonable
chances of equalising
as ...Ng6 is likely to be
the follow-up.;

C2b22) 9.Bb5 Qe8

10.Qxe8+ Rxe8

11.Bxf4± (11.Ne2)]

6.f4

[Logical is 6.h4!? Ashwin Jayaram:
'provoking weaknesses by trying to
trap the f5-bishop.'

A) 6...h5 7.Be2 Qd7 0.93/22

(7...Bg6 1.18/20 7...Qd7 0.70
8.Ndf3 followed by Nh3-f4. f6
9.Nh3; 7...f6 8.Bxh5+ Kd7 9.exf6!
Nxf6 10.Bf3 and Black's

compensation is unclear Ashwin
Jayaram: 'and Black's
compensation is unclear'; 7...f6±
0.52/20) 8.Bxh5 (It could be

argued that White is better on both
sides of the board after 8.a4→)
8...0-0-0 9.Be2 f6 10.g4 Bh7
11.f4! fxe5 12.fxe5 Nh6 13.Nh3
Be7 14.Nf2 Rdf8 15.Rh3;

B) 6...h6 7.h5 Qd7 8.g4 Bh7 9.f4
f6 10.Nb3 Qf7 11.Be3 Be4
12.Rh2

B1) 12...f5 1.19/20 12...0-0-0 0.
68 13.Nd2 Nge7 14.Nxe4 dxe4
15.gxf5 Nxf5 16.Qe2 0-0-0
1.54/21 (Δ16...Nce7 1.11/25)
17.0-0-0± 1.15/21 (Δ17.Bg2
1.54/21);

B2) 12...0-0-0 13.Nh3 g6!
14.Nf2

B2a) 14...fxe5 1.21/21

14...g5 0.66 15.fxe5 gxh5
16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Qe2! Nge7
18.0-0-0 1.08/22 (Δ18.gxh5
1.57/22 Nf5 19.Bf2) 18...Nd5
aiming for ...hxg4. 19.gxh5±;

B2b) 14...gxh5

B2b1) 15.Nxe4?! 0.27/20

15.Rxh5 0.72 dxe4
16.Rxh5 Nge7! 17.Nc5??
-1.56/22 (17.Qe2

Nc5 would now be deadly.
Nd5!; 17.Bc4= 0.20/21)

17...Nd5-+;

B2b2) 15.Rxh5 Bg6

(15...Nge7? 2.86/18

15...Bg6 0.78 16.Nc5! f5
17.Bxa6!) 16.Rh3 h5

17.Bd3! fxe5 18.fxe5 h4
1.14/21 (18...Nge7±

0.64/22) 19.Qd2± 0.63/19

(White should play 19.Bg5±
1.14/21 Be7 20.Bxe7

Ngxe7 21.Rf3)]

6...f6 0.78/22

[6...h5 Ashwin Jayaram: 'was also an
interesting idea' 7.Ngf3 Against g5

(7.Be2 g5!?) 7...Be7 (7...Nh6 8.Be2 Bg6 with an interesting position) 8.Be2 Bh4+ 9.g3 Be7 10.h3! Nh6 11.Nf1 Qd7 12.Ne3 0-0-0 13.b4 Na7 14.a4↑] [6...h5± 0.37/23]

7.Nh3N Clearly an astute decision. Anand understands that ...g5 is Black's plan, so he avoids the more natural 7. Ngf3. Ashwin Jayaram: 'bringing the knight to the f2-square' Ashwin Jayaram: 'bringing the knight to the f2-square'

[7.Ngf3 g5! 1/2-1/2 (33) Tyulenko,Y (2405) -Furashev,V (2324) ICCF email 2017 gives Black strong dynamic counterchances. For instance. Prevents Nh4.

A) 8.Nb3 gxf4 9.Bxf4 fxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 Qh4+ (11...Nf6 12.Bd3 35. Nimzowitsch Defence-5... f6 #1) 12.Bg3 Qe4+ 13.Qe2 Bd6 14.Nc5 Qxe2+ 15.Bxe2 0-0-0 16.0-0 Bxg3 17.hxg3 Nh6 18.Rf4 Rhg8 19.Kf2 35. Nimzowitsch Defence-5... f6 #2;

B) 8.fxg5 fxe5 9.dxe5 Nge7 10.Nb3 Bg7!±]

7...Qd7

[An obvious but important point is that 7...Bxh3?? 1.78/23 7...Qd7 0.69 runs into 8.Qh5+]

[On 7...g5!? Anand's intention must have been 8.g4! Bg6 9.exf6

A) 9...gxf4 10.g5! effectively hampering the development of the knight on g8. Bd6 11.Qg4 0.55/19 (11.Qe2!± 0.93/24) 11...h6!± Black's best try, although it is insufficient: 12.Qxe6+ Kf8 13.Nf3 Qe8 (13...hxg5 1.12/20 1 3 . . . Q e 8 0 . 6 6 14.Nfxg5!

Of course by capturing with this knight, White retains pressure against the f4-pawn.) 14.Qe2!± Black should now play 14...Be4 or 14...Bh5. (14.Qxe8+ 0.10/18 14.Qe2 0.60 Rxe8+ 15.Kf2! hxg5 Strongly threatening ...g4. 16.Nfxg5 Rh4! is totally unclear.) 14...Be4 (14...Qf7 1.06/20 14...Be4 0.60 15.Bxf4; 14...Bh5 15.Kf2! hxg5 16.Qxe8+ Rxe8 17.Nfxg5± if the bishop were on g6, Black could continue to defend the pawn on f4 by means of Rh4!) 15.Bg2! (15.Kf2?? -2.21/19 15.Bg2 0.87 hxg5 Hoping for ...g4. 16.Nhxg5 Black must now prevent f7. Nxf6-+) Now objectively best is to take on f3. This is surprising, however the reason 15...hxg5 1.77/21 is erroneous is that (15...Bd3± 0.60/23 16.Qxe8+ Rxe8+ 17.Kd1 Be2+ 18.Kc2 Bxf3 Remove Defender 19.Bxf3 hxg5 Remove Defender) 16.f7!+- wins on the spot. Qxf7 17.Nfxg5+-; **B) 9...Nxf6!** 10.fxg5 (10.Nxg5 0.34/22 10.fxg5 0.97 Qd7± Black has ...h5 in mind.) 10...Ne4 11.Qe2! e5 12.Bg2 Nxd2 1.37/19 (Black should try 12...Qd7 0.97/21) 13.Bxd2±]

8.Nf2 White is better. 8...0-0-0 Ashwin Jayaram: 'White's plan is clear. He needs to get b4-b5. If he does so, he should have an overwhelming attack. but its not immediately easy' Ashwin Jayaram: 'White's plan is clear. He needs to get b4-b5. If he does so, he should have an overwhelming attack. but its not immediately easy' **9.Bd3**

[9.Nf3 Nh6 (9...Na5 intending to meet b2-b4 with ...Na5-c4 10.Bd3

Nh6 is similar to the game) 10.b4→]
 [9.b4? 0.06/22 9.Nf3 0.88 Bxb4
 10.cxb4 Nxb4 Threatens to win with ...
 Nc2+. 11.Nb3 Nd3 is the strong
 threat. Nc2+ 12.Kd2 Nxa1 13.Nxa1
 c5 and while the position is still crazy,
 it's clear that Black is not worse
 Ashwin Jayaram: 'and while the
 position is still crazy, it's clear that
 Black is not worse']
 [9.a3? is way too slow g5!]
 [9.Be2 allows g5!]

9...Nh6

[After 9...g5!? Ashwin Jayaram: 'was
 probably the best option here,
 although' 10.Bxf5 exf5 11.0-0
 (11.Nf3 looks good for White)
 11...gxf4 White has the instructive
 12.e6! Qxe6 13.Nb3±]

10.0-0 Na5 1.32/20

[Better is 10...Bxd3 0.94/20 11.Nxd3
 Kb8]

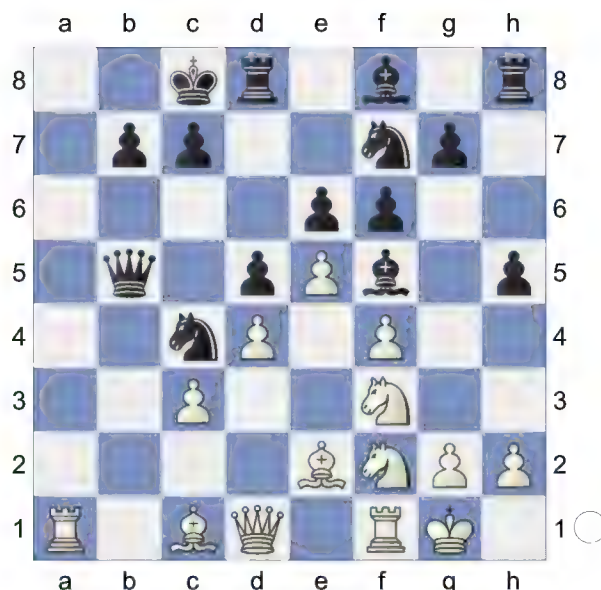
11.Be2 Ashwin Jayaram: 'threatening b2-
 b4' 11...Qc6 Ashwin Jayaram: 'aimed
 against b2-b4' 12.Qe1?! Too slow.
 Ashwin Jayaram: 'This is too slow'

[White should have played for a4 and
 b4, without fearing the knight jump
 into c4: 12.a4 Ashwin Jayaram: 'with
 the idea of Nf3 and b4, puts Black in
 trouble' Ashwin Jayaram: 'with the
 idea of Nf3 and b4, puts Black in
 trouble' Nf7 1.82/22 (12...Bg6±
 1.44/21 was worth a try.) 13.Nf3 h5
 14.b4! Nc4 (14...Qxc3? 3.50/21
 14...Nc4 1.56 15.Bd2+-) 15.b5!

A) 15...axb5 16.axb5 Qxb5
 (16...Qb6 2.76/21 16...Qxb5 1.73
 17.Bxc4 dxc4 18.Nh4+-)

(Diagram)

17.Nd2! with Ra4 to follow.;



B) 15...Qb6 16.Bxc4 dxc4 17.Qe2
 axb5 2.08/19 (17...Qa5± 1.49/18
 might work better.) 18.axb5+- Qxb5
 19.Nd2 Bd3 2.02/20 (19...h4
 1.62/18) 20.Nxd3+- cxd3
 21.Qe3+-]

12...Be7 13.Nd1 A clever idea. White
 now threatens b4 on clearly favourable
 terms however, Ashwin Jayaram: 'The
 point of 12.Qe1. Again threatening b2-
 b4, but Black counters it with' Ashwin
 Jayaram: 'The point of 12.Qe1. Again
 threatening b2-b4, but Black counters it
 with' **13...Bc2!** was probably
 underestimated. **14.Rf3?!** 0.42/22
 A sign that things have gone wrong.
 Ashwin Jayaram: 'too strange. White
 could have played on normally with'
 Ashwin Jayaram: 'too strange. White
 could have played on normally with'

[14.Ne3 Bg6 15.Nb3!? Nxb3
 16.axb3±]

[14.Nf3 was probably best. White has
 an idea to play b3 and c4, targeting
 the knight on a5. Ashwin Jayaram:
 'White can aim to get b2-b4 after
 playing Nd1-e3' Ashwin Jayaram:
 'White can aim to get b2-b4 after

playing Nd1-e3']

[14.Nf3± 0.96/22]

14...fxe5± 15.fxe5 Rdf8 16.Ne3

Wards off Nf5 16...Bg6 Now the rook on f3 looks somewhat useless. 17.Qg3?!

-0.09/20 This game illustrates that a few good but surprising moves in a row can cause the opponent to lose their cool - even if they're former World Champions. Ashwin Jayaram: 'ignoring the development. White should have just tried to play normally with' Ashwin Jayaram: 'ignoring the development. White should have just tried to play normally with'

[White still has chances of an edge after 17.Rxf8+ Rxf8 18.Nf3 Ashwin Jayaram: 'and White's space advantage still means something' Ashwin Jayaram: 'and White's space advantage still means something']

[17.Rh3± 0.36/24 is more appropriate.]

17...Qb6!= Black now prepares ...c5. Ashwin Jayaram: 'Black has no problems here'. Black wants to play ...c5. The position is equal. 18.a3

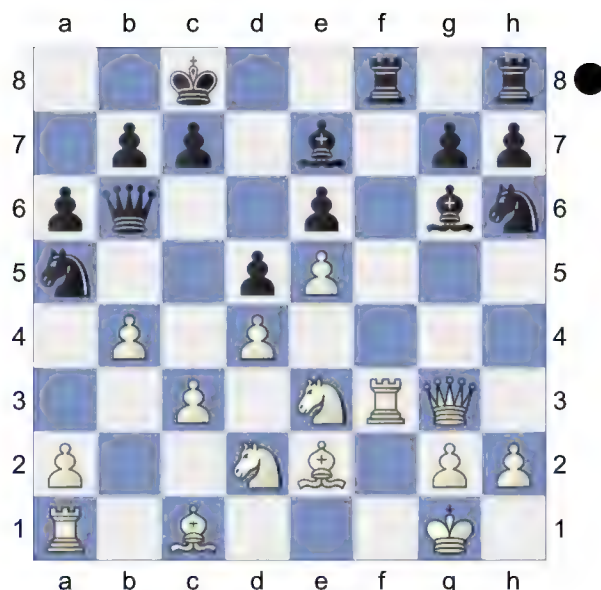
[Also uninspiring is 18.Kh1 c5 (18...Kb8!?) 19.dxc5 Rxf3 0.20/23 (19...Qxc5 -0.22/22 is superior. 20.Qh3 Rd8) 20.Nxf3 Bxc5 21.Nd1 Nf5↑]

[The tactical justification of Black's last move was that 18.b4?? -1.10/20 18.Rxf8+ -0.05

(Diagram)

is impossible due to Bxb4! 19.cxb4 Qxd4]

18...Nb3! Prevents b4. 19.Nxb3 Qxb3 20.Bd1 Qb5 Ashwin Jayaram: 'Perhaps Black had too much respect for his



opponent here, but he could have played on' Ashwin Jayaram: 'Perhaps Black had too much respect for his opponent here, but he could have played on'.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

[Black could have continued play with 20...Rxf3!? 21.Qxf3 Qb6±] ½-½

□ Movsesian, Sergei B08 2647

■ Carlsen, Magnus 2837

Wch Rapid Riyadh (6) 27.12.2017
[Schandorff, Lars, Kitty Kat]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.h3 Bg7 6.Be3 0-0 7.Qd2 a6! Black flirts with both ...b5 and ...e5 as usual. The sensible move is 8.a4.

[7...e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.0-0-0 Nxe4 10.Nxe4 f5 11.g4 fxe4 12.Ng5 c6 13.dxc6 d5 14.cxb7 Bxb7 15.Ne6 Qc8 16.Nxg7 d4 17.Bh6 e3 18.Qb4 Rxf2 19.Bc4+ Bd5 20.Nf5 Nxf5

21.Bxd5+ Kh8 22.Qa4 (24) Meszaros, C (2342)-Mutter, V (2519) 103/275 Santa Clara 2008]

8.Bd3N 0.27/19

[8.d5± 0.63/20 Na7 (8...Nb8 9.Bh6 b5 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.Bd3 c5 12.dxc6 Nxc6 Chapter Bauer-Games Chapter Game 5) 9.a4]

8...e5= 9.d5

[9.dxe5 Nxe5 (9...dxe5=) 10.Nxe5 dxe5=]

9...Ne7 The position is equal. I feel these kinds of position must be nice for Black. The computer doesn't agree, but it has no chess culture! Black has a good King's Indian.

10.g4!? -0.29/22

[Δ10.a4 0.26/20]

10...c6 0.42/21

[10...b5 11.a3 Bd7 also looked good. Later he can play ...c6 and take back on c6 with the bishop]

[10...b5= -0.29/22]

11.dxc6± bxc6 12.0-0-0 d5?!

Prevents Bc4. Strongly threatening ...d4. It is almost too easy. Yeah, that should have been a warning light.

[12...Qc7 13.Rhe1 Rb8±]

13.Nxe5 Nxe4 14.Bxe4

[14.Nxe4 dxe4 (14...Bxe5 15.Nc5±) 15.Nxf7 Rxf7±]

14...Bxe5 15.Bg2 Rb8! b2 is the weak spot. 16.Rhe1

[16.f4 Bg7 17.Bd4! and White defends. And not only defends. Without the mighty ♖g7 Black's initiative vanishes and White is slightly better.]

16...Be6 17.Na4?! He tries to secure the dark squares and defend b2 at the same time. It doesn't quite work out though.

[17.Bd4]

17...Qd6 1.41/23

[Δ17...Nc8 0.85/20]

18.c3 0.88/20

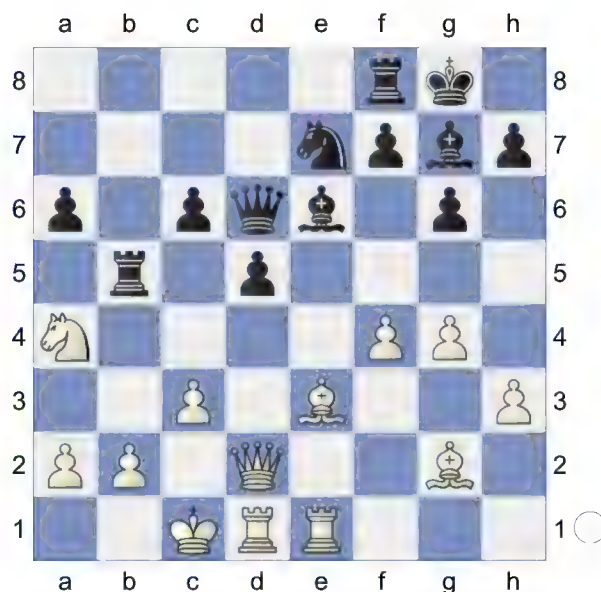
[White should try 18.Bh6! 1.41/23]

18...Rb5!± A clever move. It protect the important c5-square and at the same time creates the threat ...♖a5.

19.f4

[Not 19.Bc5? Rxc5 20.Rxe5 (20.Nxc5? Bf4-+ Pin) 20...Ra5 21.Rxe6 fxe6-+]

19...Bg7



20.Bf1? -0.70/16

[20.Qf2! and anything could have happened.]

[Better is 20.Qf2!± 1.11/19]

20...Ra5!± 21.Qc2 -2.30/20 This move loses the game for White.

[21.Nb6± -0.72/20 was necessary. Qb8 (21...Rxa2 22.Kb1±) 22.Bf2]

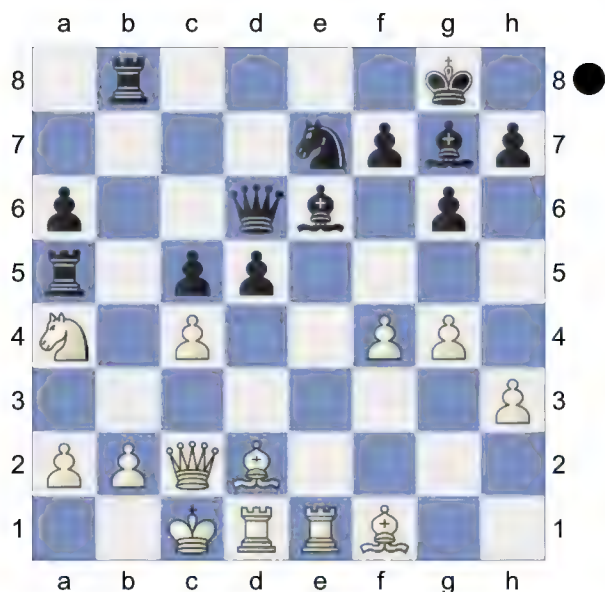
21...c5-+ White's position collapses.

22.c4 -2.88/18

[Δ22.b3 -1.86/18]

22...Rb8! Threatens to win with ...Bxb2+! Now b2 will fall with disastrous consequences. 23.Bd2? -4.90/20

[23.b3 -2.64/17 keeps fighting.]



23...Rxa4! Remove Defender, Deflection. Black is clearly winning. **24.Qxa4 Bxb2+** **25.Kc2 Bd7** The queen is in trouble as well.

26.Qb3

[26.Qa5 -6.41/19 26.Qb3 -4.53 Nc6]
[But not 26.Qa5? Nc6 27.Rb1 Nxa5]

26...Rxb3 27.axb3 Bd4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.55/
Black=0.14 (very precise)
0-1

□ Costa, Leonardo

■ Bauer, Christian

Weissenhaus YM (7)

[Kitty Kat]

B00

2472

2557

17.10.2024

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Be2 Bg7 6.0-0 a6N

[6...0-0

A) 7.h3 a6 8.a4 e5 9.dxe5
(9.Be3 exd4 10.Nxd4 Re8
11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bf3 Nd7 13.Qd2

Rb8 14.Rab1 Qf6 15.Be2 Qe5
16.Rfd1 Qa5 17.Bd4 Bxd4
18.Qxd4 Rb4 19.Qd2 Nc5 20.b3
Nxe4 21.Nxe4 Rxe4 22.Bf3 Re5
23.Bxc6 Bf5 0-1 (47) 8. ♖b3 ♜c6 9.
♜e1 ♜e6-Sowa,M 21/258

Amsterdam 1976) 9...dxe5 10.Be3
Qe7 11.Qc1 Rd8 12.Rd1 Be6
13.Ng5 Nd4 14.Nxe6 Qxe6
15.Bd3 Rd7 16.Rd2 Rad8 17.Qf1
Nh5 18.Rad1 Nf4 19.Bc4 Qe7
20.Bxf4 exf4 21.Nd5 Qxe4
0-1 (60) James,G (2311)-4.h3 ♜g7
5. ♜f3 de4 6. ♜e (2596) Great
Britain (Internet-playoff) 2020 (1);

B) 7.d5 Nb8 (7...Ne5 8.Nxe5
dxe5 9.Be3 8) White: 1.e4 vs.
Other Open-1...Nc6 #2 Opening
Compass for Black and White
2023) 8.h3 e5 9.dxe6 Bxe6
10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Nc6 12.Qd2
d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Qxd5
15.Qxd5 Bxd5 5.Be2 with a quick
d4-d5,C]

7.d5 Na7 8.a4 White is slightly better.
8...0-0 9.h3 e5 10.Be3 Bd7 11.Nd2
Nc8 12.Nc4 Ne7 13.a5 Bb5 1.15/18

[13...Ne8± 0.70/21]

14.b4 Bxc4 15.Bxc4 Nh5 16.Rb1
White has more active pieces. 16...f5
17.b5 axb5 18.Rxb5 f4 19.Bd2 f3
20.g3

[20.gxf3?! g5±]

[20.Rxb7 fxfg2 21.Kxg2 Nf4+
(21...Rxa5 22.Nb5±) 22.Bxf4 exf4=]

20...Kh8 21.Kh2!

[21.Rxb7? Qc8 22.Kh2 Qxb7-+]

21...Qc8 22.Qb1 Ng8 23.Rxb7 0.30/19

[White should play 23.Qb4!± 1.48/21]

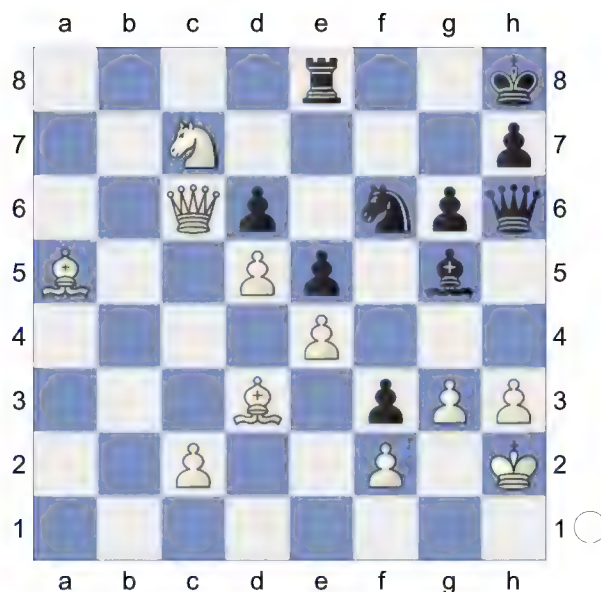
23...Rxa5 1.59/22

[23...Bh6!= 0.30/19 24.Bxh6 Nxh6]

24.Nb5!± Discovered Attack 24...Qxb7
25.Bxa5 Rf7 2.20/20

[25...Nhf6± 1.58/21]
26.Qb3+- Qc8 27.Rd1 Bh6 1.80/19
 [27...Nhf6± 1.42/21]
28.Bf1 Qa8 2.82/21
 [28...Ngf6 1.91/20]
29.Ra1
 [29.Bxc7 Rxc7 30.Nxc7 Qa7
 31.Qxf3 Qxc7±]
29...Ngf6 30.Qc4 Threatens to win with Ra4.
 [30.Nxc7? Rxc7 31.Ra4 Ra7+-]
 [30.Qxf3?! Qf8 31.Qe2 (31.Bxc7?
 Ne8-+; 31.Nxc7? Nxd5 Discovered
 Attack 32.Qg2 Nxc7+-) 31...Nxd5±]
30...Ne8 31.Ra3
 [31.Bxc7? Qxa1 32.Bb6 Qe1+-]
**31...Qd8 32.Qc6 Black must now
 prevent Bb6. 32...Bc1 2.38/20**
 [32...Qe7 1.78/20 might work better.
 33.Bb4 Nhf6]
33.Ra1! Bg5 4.03/24
 [33...Be3 2.23/20]
34.Bb4 Nhf6 35.Ra8 Qe7 4.23/23
 [35...Qd7 2.38/20 was called for.
 36.Na7 Qxc6 37.Nxc6 h5]
36.Ba5 Rf8 37.Bd3 0.17/19
 [37.Bxc7 Nxc7 38.Nxc7 (38.Qxc7?
 Rxa8 39.Qxe7 Ng4+ Discovered
 Attack 40.hxg4 Bxe7+-) 38...Bh6+-]
 [37.Nxc7+- 2.90/21 Nxc7 38.Ra7
 (38.Bxc7 Rxa8 39.Qxa8+ Kg7+-)
 38...Nxe4 39.Rxc7 (39.Bxc7 Qg7+-)]
**37...Qg7!= aiming for ...Be3! 38.Nxc7
 Qh6! (-> ...Ng4+) 39.Rxe8 1.00/20**
 [39.Nxe8? Ng4+ 40.Kg1 Qxh3
 41.Nxd6 Qg2#]
 [39.Bf1± 0.39/26 Be3 40.Rxe8
 (40.Nxe8? Ng4+ 41.Kg1 Nxf2+-)
 40...Rxe8 41.Bd2 Pin (41.Nxe8
 Ng4+ 42.Kh1 Nxf2+ 43.Kh2 Nxh3=)]
39...Rxe8±

(Diagram)



40.Bf1!↑ White fights for an advantage.
 [40.Nxe8? Ng4+ 41.Kg1 Qxh3
 42.Nxd6 Qg2#]
40...Rb8 1.41/22
 [40...Re7 41.Qxd6 (41.Ne6 Be3+-)
 41...Kg8 42.Qa6+- (42.Qxe7? Ng4+
 Discovered Attack, Double Attack
 43.Kg1 Bxe7+-)]
 [Better is 40...Be3!± 0.40/19 41.Bd2
 Pin (41.Nxe8 Ng4+ 42.Kh1 Nxf2+
 43.Kh2 Nxe4=) 41...Rb8
 (41...Ng4+? 42.Kg1+-) 42.Bxe3
 Ng4+ 43.Kg1 Nxe3 44.Qxd6
 (44.fxe3? Qxe3+ 45.Kh1 Qe1+-)
 44...Nxf1]
41.Qxd6? -6.98/23
 [41.Bb6± 1.41/22 Nxe4 42.Ne6]
41...Rb1 42.Qa6

(Diagram)

**Strongly threatening Ne6. 42...Be3??
 6.50/27 43.Qxf6+**
**Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/
 Black=0.43
 1-0**



□ Hou, Yifan

■ Rapport, Richard

Geneva FIDE GP (5)

[Kitty Kat]

C55

2666

2694

10.07.2017

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 g6 7.Re1

[7.d4 Qe7 8.Re1 Bg7 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.h3 Nh7 (10...a6 11.a4 exd4 12.cxd4 Nd7 13.Nf1 Nb6 14.Bb3 a5 15.Be3 Qd8 16.Ng3 d5 17.e5 Nc4 18.Bxc4 dxc4 19.Qc1 Nb4 20.Qxc4 Be6 21.Qe2 Bd5 22.Rec1 Qd7 23.Nd2 f5 24.exf6 Rxf6 25.Nc4 1-0 (79) 9. ♔d3 ♘c6 10. ♖d1 (2226)- Milovanovic, M (2301) Sharjah op 2014 (6)) 11.Nf1 Ng5 12.Bxg5 hxg5 13.Ne3 Rb8 14.Qd2 b5 15.Bb3 Na5 16.Nd5 Qd8 17.dxe5 Bxe5 18.Qxg5 Qxg5 19.Nxg5 c6 20.f4 cxd5 21.fxe5 Nxb3 1-0 (29) Dauvergne, D (2590)-10. f4 ♔e4 5054 (2565) 94: World Chess Olympiad 1992 (1)]

7...Bg7 8.h3N

[8.Bb3 0-0 9.Nbd2 Re8 (9...Qe7 10.Nc4 Nb8 11.h3 Nbd7 12.d4 Nh5 13.a4 Rd8 14.a5 a6 15.Be3 Kh7 16.Bc2 Nf8 17.Qc1 g5 18.Bd1 Nf4 19.Bxf4 gxf4 20.Qd2 Ne6 21.d5 Ng5 22.Qe2 Nxf3+ 23.Qxf3 Rg8 24.Nd2 0-1 (46) 12. ♘c6 bc6 13.e5 (2370)-8.d4 ♔g7 9. ♔d3 (2490) 35/(49) Trnava 1983 (3.1)) 10.h3 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.d4 Nb6 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Rxe5 15.Rxe5 Bxe5 16.Qf3 Qe7 17.Qe3 g5 18.h4 Bd6 19.Ne4 Bf4 20.Qf3 Bg4 21.Qxg4 Qxe4 22.g3 Qe1+ (27) Chapter Chapter-Games Chapter - Chapter 9 (5)]

8...0-0 9.d4 Nd7 10.Na3 White is slightly better. 10...Nb6 0.74/21

[10...a6± 0.38/21]

11.Bb5 0.28/21

[11.Bb3± 0.74/21]

11...Bd7 12.Be3 -0.12/17

[12.dxe5± 0.39/22 dxe5 13.Nc4]

12...Kh7 0.56/19

[12...f5!= -0.12/17]

13.dxe5± dxe5 14.Nc4 Qe7 15.a4 Rad8 16.Qe2 Nxc4 17.Qxc4

And now Bc5 would win. 17...Qf6

[17...a6?! 18.Bxc6 Bxc6 19.Bc5+-]

18.Bxc6 0.05/23

[18.Qe2± 0.66/21]

18...Qxc6= 19.Qxc6 Bxc6 20.Bxa7 Rg8 21.a5 f5 22.exf5 gxf5 ...Ra8 is

the strong threat. 23.Red1 -0.98/22

[23.Nxe5± 0.31/19 Bxe5 24.Rxe5 Rxg2+ 25.Kf1]

23...Ra8 -0.58/23

[Black should play 23...Rxd1+ ♖ ♘ (24...Ra8 25.Bc5 ♗)]

24.Be3 ♗ f4↑ Black has compensation. Black has some pressure. 25.Bd2 -1.30/22

[25.Bc1! -0.70/24]

25...Bf6 26.Ne1 Rg7 -0.77/19

Black has more active pieces.

[26...Bxg2! -1.57/25 27.Nxg2 f3
Pin]

27.c4



Rag8 -0.07/20

[27...Bxg2! -0.89/24 28.Nxg2 f3
Pin]

28.Kf1? -3.01/19 This move loses the game for White.

[28.a6! -0.07/20 Bxg2 29.Nxg2
Rxg2+ 30.Kh1 bxa6 (30...Rxf2
31.axb7 Rgg2 32.Bxf4=) 31.Rxa6
Rxf2 32.Rxf6]

28...Bxg2+-+ 29.Nxg2

(Diagram)

Hoping for Ne1. 29...f3!

[29...Rxg2 30.Ke2 29]

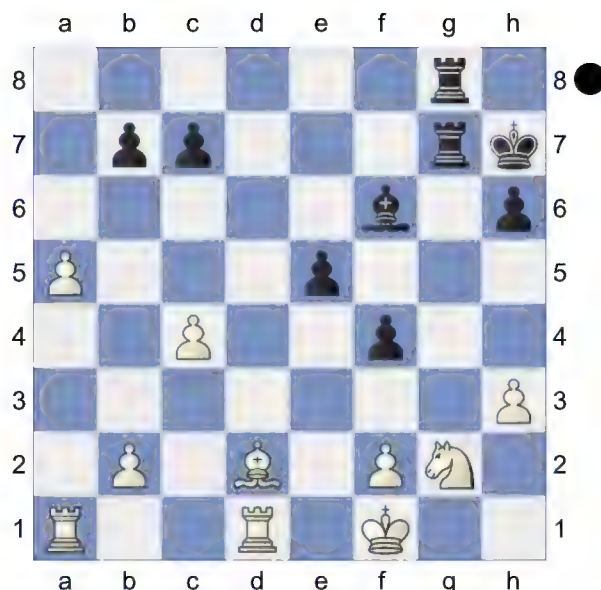
30.Be3 e4! 31.Ra3 Be5

[31...fxg2+ 32.Kg1=]

[Not 31...Rxg2 32.Rd7+ Kg6
33.Rb3 29]

32.Rb3? -5.23/20

[32.a6 -3.07/20 was worth a try. Bh2
33.h4]



32...c6

[And not 32...Rxg2 33.Rd7+ Kh8
34.Ke1±]

33.Bd4 -5.70/23

[33.h4 -3.91/19 is a better defense.]

33...fxg2+ Black is clearly winning.

34.Kg1 Rd8 35.Rbd3 Rgd7 36.Bxe5

Rxd3 Endgame. KRR-KRB

[Less strong is 36...exd3 37.Kxg2
Re8 38.Bc3-+]

37.Re1 Rg8

[37...Rxh3? 38.Rxe4 Rg8 39.Bg3-+]

38.h4 -6.64/23

[38.Bh2 -4.67/20]

38...Rh3 39.Bh2 Rxh4 40.Rd1 Rg7
41.b4

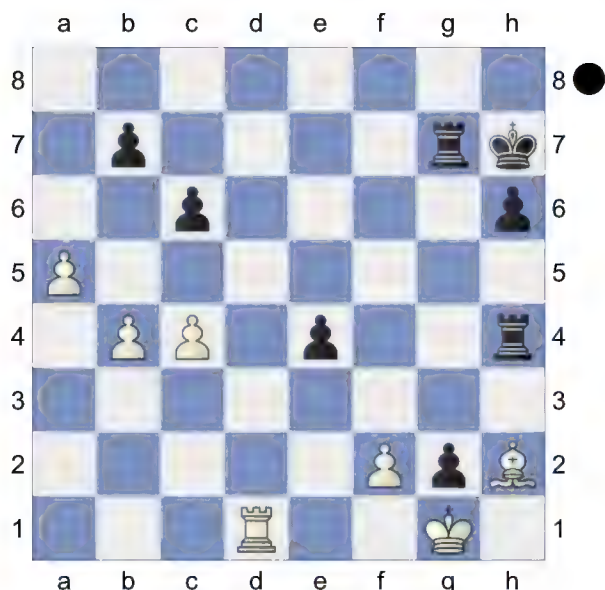
(Diagram)

e3! Discovered Attack 42.fxe3 Rxc4

43.Be5 Rgg4 44.Bd6 h5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/
Black=0.24 (precise)

0-1



□ Ding, Liren

■ Le, Tuan Minh

PRO League Stage rapid (7) 17.02.2020
[Szabo, Krisztian, Kitty Kat]

B01

2805

2501

B01: Scandinavian Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5
4.Nc3 Qa5 5.d4 Bg4 6.Bb5 0-0-0
7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.h3 Qh5 9.Be3 N

White has an edge.

[9.Qe2 Bxf3! 10.gxf3 e6 11.Ne4
-0.30/20 (White should try 11.Bd2±
0.44/21) 11...Rxd4= 12.Be3 Qa5+
13.c3 Ra4! 14.0-0 Qb5 Prevents b3.
15.Qc2 Nf6 16.b3 Ra5 aiming for ...
Qh5. 17.b4 Qa4 18.Qe2 Rh5
19.Ng3 -1.50/19 (19.f4= 0.00/22 Qb5
20.c4) 19...Rhx3 20.Kg2 -1.80/19
(20.Rfd1 20...Rh4-+
21.Bg5 Nd5! ...Be7! would now be
deadly. 22.Rfd1 -3.17/21 (22.Kg1
-1.72/18 Rh3 23.a3) 22...h6!-+
23.Rxd5 Rh2+]

[9.hxg4 Qxh1+ 10.Ke2 Qxd1+
(10...Qxg2 11.Qd3 11.Nxd1 f6 11...Nf6 0.64/24

[9.Qd3 Bxf3 10.gxf3 e6 (10...e5
11.d5 Ne7 12.Bd2 cxd5 13.Qa6+
Kb8 14.Nb5 Nc8 15.Qc6 Bd6
16.0-0-0 Qxf3 17.Be3 Qe4 18.Rhg1
Qc4 19.Qxc4 dxc4 20.Rxg7 f5
21.Rdg1 f4 22.Bd2 Bf8 23.R7g5 a6
24.Na3 Nb6 25.Rxe5 0-1 (56)
Johansen, T (2425)-12. ♖h5 g6 13. ♕d5
♕c7 (2465) Jugoslavija (ch) 84/408
2002 (3)) 11.Bd2 Ne7 12.0-0-0 Nf5
13.Ne4 Rxd4 14.Qa6+ Kd7 15.Be3
Rxd1+ 16.Rxd1+ Bd6 17.c4 Ke7
18.Qxa7 Rc8 19.Qb7 Nxe3 20.fxe3
Qxf3 21.Nxd6 Rf8 22.Qxc7+ Kf6
23.Qb6 e5 1-0 (34) Kleinsorgen, H
(2345)-12. ♖h5 g6 13. ♕d5 ♕c7 (2454)
TCh-ROU Superliga 2011 (7)]

9...Nf6 0.64/24

[9...Bxf3 10.gxf3 e5 And now ...exd4
would win. 11.Qe2 exd4 12.Qa6+
Kb8! 13.0-0-0 Qc5? 2.60/22
(13...Bc5= 0.30/22 and Black has
nothing to worry. 14.Qxc6 Bb6)
14.Qa4 1.29/21 (14.Bxd4+- 2.60/22
Rxd4 15.Ne4)]

[9...Bxf3= 0.23/24 10.gxf3 (10.Qxf3
Qxf3 11.gxf3 Nh6=) 10...e6]

10.Qe2! Threatens to win with Qa6+.

[10.hxg4 Qxh1+ 11.Kd2 Qxd1+
(11...Qxg2 12.Qe2±) 12.Rxd1 c5 12...Nxc4? 13.Ng5-+)]

10...Bxf3 11.gxf3

[11.Qxf3 Qxf3 12.gxf3 Nd5=]

11...e6 12.0-0-0 Kb7 13.Rhg1

[13.Rd3 Rb8 14.Rg1 h6 15.Bf4 Qf5
0.87/18 (15...Qxh3± 0.45/19 16.Be5
Nd7) 16.Be5]

13...h6 Inhibits Rg5.

[13...Qxh3 (Szabo, K (2492)-Pap, G
(2420) Miskolc 2007) 14.Ne4!±
During the game I didn't see this move,
which avoids ...g5 so simply. Nd5?!
15.Kb1± followed by 0-0, White

arrives just in time. Rb8?! could have been met by the smart 16.c4! Nxe3! 17.fxe3± and White exchanges the queens.]

[In the event of 13...Nd5 14.Ne4 Black grabs the bishop pair which gives him good compensation for the pawn.]

[Or 13...Qa5 14.Kb1 also gives some play for Black. h6 15.Ne4]

14.Rd3 Hoping for Ne4. **14...Rg8?**
2.08/20 Black cannot hold the game after this.

[14...Rb8±]

[14...Rb8± 0.57/23]

15.Ne4!+- Be7 3.31/20

[15...Nxe4± 3.48/18 15...Nd5 1.83
16.Rb3+!? Kc8 White must now prevent ...Kd7. 17.Qa6+ Kd7
18.fxe4]

[15...Qxh3? 16.Nxf6 gxf6
17.Rxg8+-]

[Δ15...Nd5 2.17/21 16.Rb3+ Kc8]

16.Rb3+ Kc8 17.Qa6+ Kd7 18.Rd1
1.99/21

[18.Qxa7 Ra8 19.Nc5+ Bxc5
20.Qxc5 Qxf3±]

[Δ18.d5 3.32/22 Nxd5 19.Rd1
(19.Qxa7 Ra8±; 19.Bxa7 f5±)
19...Qxf3 20.Nc5+ Bxc5 21.Bxc5]

18...Qxf3 2.91/24

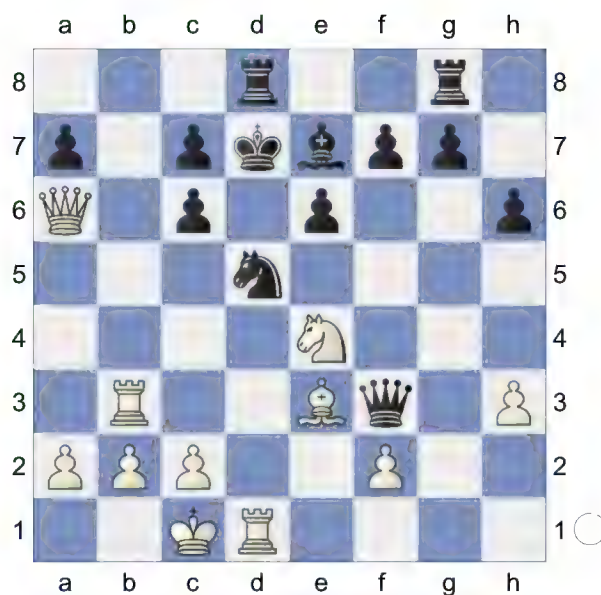
[18...Qf5 2.34/21 18...Nd5 1.94
19.d5 exd5 (19...cxd5 20.Qa4+;
19...Nxd5 20.c4) 20.Rc3 Qe6±
Stojkovska,M (2113)-Dinic,N (1909)
Senta 2018 21.Bxa7 Ra8 22.Qb7!
Against Rgb8]

[18...Nd5 1.99/21 was worth a try.
19.Qa4 (19.Qxa7? Ra8+- Skewer)
19...Rc8 (19...Qxh3 20.c4+-;
19...Qxf3? 20.Nc5+ Kd6 21.Bxh6+-)]

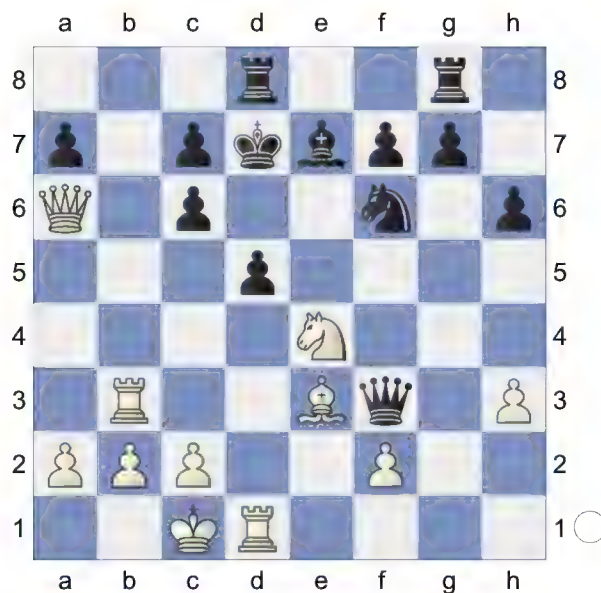
19.Nd2

[19.d5 exd5± (19...Nxd5 3.37/19

19...exd5 2.40



with huge complications. 20.Nc5+!
Bxc5 21.Bxc5? Qf4+- 22.Be3? Qd6
23.c4; 19...cxd5 20.Qa4+ c6
21.Rb7+ Ke8± 22.Nxf6+ Qxf6
23.Qxc6+ Kf8± 24.Rxe7?!)



20.Rc3! was the alternative choice,
Ke8 21.Qxc6+ Kf8 22.Nxf6 Qxf6
23.Qxc7]

19...Qxh3 3.37/21

[19...Qd5]

[19...Qd5 2.38/19 was necessary.
20.Nc4 (20.Qxa7? Ra8+- Skewer)

20...Ke8]
20.Nc4 Bf4! is the strong threat.
 [20.Qxa7 Ra8 21.Qb7 Rgb8
 (21...Rxa2? 22.Bf4+- Discovered
 Attack) 22.Qxb8 Rxb8 23.Rxb8
 Qh5±]

20...Ke8 21.Ne5?!
 [21.Qxc6+ Kf8 22.Bf4 (22.Qxc7
 Nd5±) 22...Qf5 23.Bxc7 (23.Qxc7?
 Nd5+-) 23...Rc8+-]

21...Bd6 22.Nxc6
 [22.Qxc6+ Ke7=]

22...Ra8 23.Qb7
 [23.Nxa7 Qf5±]

23...Kd7 24.Ne5+ White is clearly
 winning.

[Not 24.Nxa7 Qf5± (24...Rgb8
 25.Qc6+ Ke7 26.Nb5±)]

24...Ke7 25.Bf4 Qf5 6.68/18

[⊲25...Rgb8 4.30/18 26.Qxb8 Qg2]

26.Nc6+ Kd7 27.Bxd6 Kxd6 28.Ne5
 White wants to mate with Qb4+.

[28.Nxa7 Qg5+ 29.Kb1 Qa5
 30.Qc6+ Ke7+-]

28...Qf4+ 29.Kb1 Intending Qb4+ and
 mate. **29...Rgf8**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.20
 (precise) /Black=0.59. An unexpected
 result.

1/2-1/2

□ **Horberg,Beng Eric** **B00**
2573
 ■ **Khadilkar,Jayshree** **2519**
 ROM-chT Romania (8.3) 25.02.2023
 [Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.d5
Nb8 5.Bf4 Nf6 6.Bc4 a6
 [6...g6 7.f3 exf3 8.Nxf3 Bg7 9.0-0

0-0 10.Qe2 c6 11.Rad1 cxd5
 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Rxd5 Qb6+
 14.Be3 Qxb2 15.Rb5 Qc3 16.Rc5
 Qa3 17.Ng5 Bg4 18.Rxf7 Rxf7
 19.Qf2 Bf5 20.Rc8+ Bf8 21.Bxf7+
 1-0 (22) 8. ♔g5 ♜a6 9. ♜d2 ♔e8 6
 (2460)-7. ♔c4 b5 8. ♔e2 59053 (2380)
 Saint-Vincent 84/(463) 2002 (4)]

7.Nge2N White has compensation.

[7.f3 b5 8.Bb3 c5 9.dxc6 Qxd1+
 10.Rxd1 Nxc6 11.Nd5 Nxd5
 12.Bxd5 Bb7 13.Bxe4 e6 14.Ne2
 Bc5 3. ♜c3 de4 4.d5 ♜b8 31874-7.f3
 Analyse]

7...g6 8.Qd2 -0.12/22

[8.Bb3± 0.34/20]

8...Bg7

[8...b5!? 9.Bb3□ Bg7=]

9.0-0-0 b5 10.Bb3 c5 ...c4 is the
 strong threat. **11.dxc6! Qxd2+ 12.Rxd2**
 Black must now prevent Nd5. **12...Nxc6**
13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Bb7 15.Bxe4
Na5 16.Bxb7 Nxb7 17.Rhd1 Rd8
18.Nd4 Rc8 Dodges Nc6 **19.Nb3 Nd8**
1.13/23 Black is on the road to losing.

[Better is 19...Bf6± 0.56/22]

20.Nc5± Deflection, Back Rank. White is
 more active. **20...a5 1.82/23**

[20...Ne6± 0.76/21 keeps fighting.
 21.Nxe6 (21.Nxa6 f5±) 21...fxe6]

21.Nd7↑ Nb6 would now be deadly.
 White is really pushing. **21...Ne6**

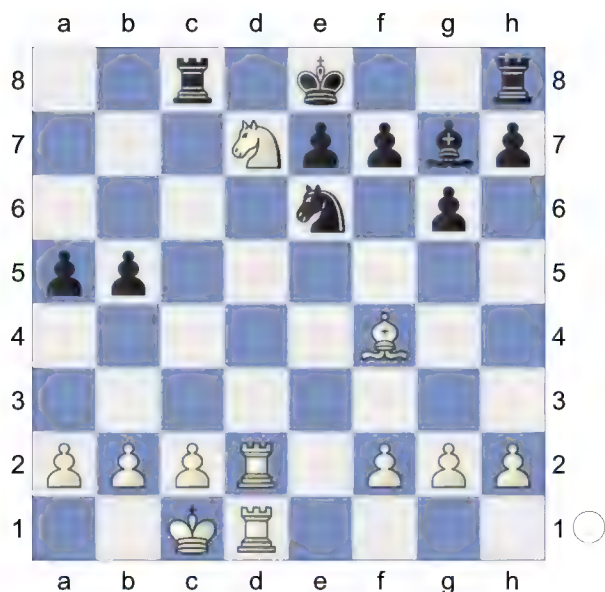
(Diagram)

22.Be3 f5 23.Rd5 f4 24.Bb6 a4
25.Rxb5 Kf7 26.Ne5+ Bxe5 27.Rxe5
Rc6 28.Ba5 Rhc8 29.c3 f3 3.21/21

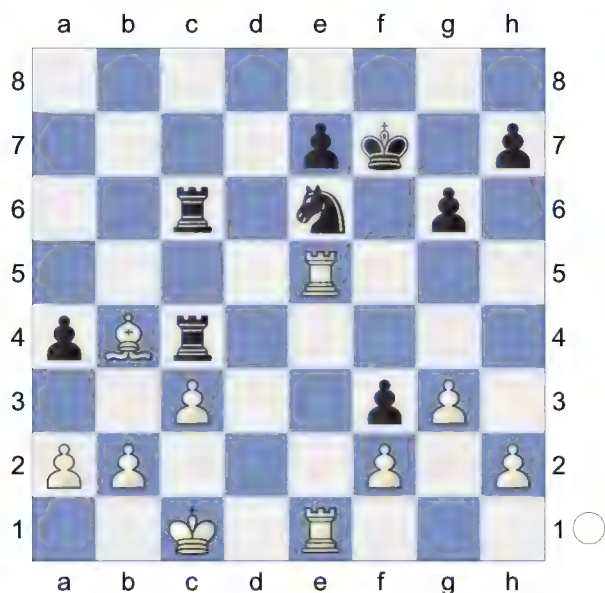
[⊲29...Rc5 2.10/17 30.Rdd5
 (30.Rxc5 Rxc5 31.Bb4 Rh5±)
 30...Rxd5 31.Rxd5 Rc4]

30.g3+-

[Much less strong is 30.gxf3 a3



31.bxa3 Rc4+-]
30...Rc5 31.Rde1 R8c6 32.Bb4 Rc4



33.R1e3! Nd4

[33...Ra6 34.Rxf3+]

34.Rxe7+ Kf6 35.Rb7 Kg5 36.Kd2
White is clearly winning. 36...Nf5
37.Rxf3 Re6 38.Rxh7 Rce4 39.Kd3
Re2 6.70/19

[♞39...Kg4 4.63/16]

40.Rf4 Rxb2 41.h4+ Kf6 42.g4
Threatening mate with g5+. 42...Ree2
43.gxf5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05

(flawless) /Black=0.32

1-0

C77

□ Fressinet,Laurent

2692

■ Bachmann,Axel

2632

FRA-chT Top 12 (3.5)

30.05.2016

[Chessbase,Kitty Kat]

(90min+30sec)/40+(30min+30sec)

C77: Ruy Lopez: 3...a6 4 Ba4 Nf6,
unusual lines

1.e4 30 Nc6 30 2.Nf3 0 e5 30 3.Bb5 0
a6 0 4.Ba4 0 Nf6 0 5.0-0 0 Be7 30
6.d3 30 d6 1:30 7.c3 30 0-0 0 8.Nbd2
30 b5 3:00 9.Bc2 2:30 d5 1:30 10.Re1
1:30 d4 30

[10...dxe4 11.dxe4 Be6 12.Qe2 Qc8
13.Nf1 (13.a4 Qb7 14.b4 Rfd8
15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Rxa8 17.Bd3
Rb8 18.Nb1 Ne8 19.Ng5 Nd8
20.Be3 Bd7 9.♙g5 ♙e6 10.f4 ♞a5-
Kragelj,I Beer-Sheva 43/89 1987)
13...Bc4 14.Bd3 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Rd8
16.Qc2 Qe6 Motylev,A (2683)-
Smirnov,P (2599) 115/(116) Russia
2012]

11.Nf1N 5:30

[11.h3 Nd7 (11...h6 12.cxd4 exd4
13.a4 Be6 14.Nb3 Qd7 15.Bf4 Nh7
16.Rc1 Ng5 17.Nxg5 hxg5 18.Bg3
Nb4 19.Bb1 Bxb3 20.Qxb3 c5
21.e5 Qe6 22.Qd1 Rfd8 23.Re4
Rac8 24.Qh5 Qh6 25.Qe2 Qe6
26.Rd1 (44) Chapter C75-Games
Chapter C75 Game 5) 12.Bb3
White wants to play Bd5. Bb7 13.Bd5
dxc3 14.bxc3 Bd6 15.Nb3 Nb6
1.26/20 (15...Qc8± 0.49/21) 16.c4±
Na4 17.Bd2 Qe7 2.04/21
(17...Ba3± 1.23/18) 18.Qc2 bxc4
2.59/19 (18...Nd8 1.92/20

keeps fighting.) 19.dxc4+- Bb4
 20.Bxc6 Bxc6 21.Bxb4 Qxb4
 22.Nxe5 Qd6 23.Nxc6 Qxc6 24.Nd4
 Qc5 25.Nb3 Qe5 26.Rad1 Rfe8
 27.Re3 Rab8 2.68/23 (27...Qb2±
 1.55/19 28.Rd2 Qxc2 29.Rxc2
 Rab8) 28.Rd5 Qb2 29.Qxb2 Nxb2
 30.c5 Nc4 31.Re2 a5 32.Rd4
 0.82/19 (White should play 32.Kh2
 1.44/23) 32...a4± 33.Rxc4 axb3
 34.axb3 Rxb3 35.Rd2 Strongly
 threatening c6. Kf8 36.f3 Rb5
 1-0 (36) Karjakin, S (2762)-
 Mamedyarov, S (2736) Baku 2015]

11...Nd7 8:30 12.a4 7:30 White has an
 edge. 12...Rb8 7:30 13.axb5! 4:30
 axb5 30 14.Bb3! 3:30 Bf6N 17:30

[14...Nb6 15.cxd4 0.09/22 (15.h3±
 0.68/23) 15...exd4 0.58/21
 (15...Bg4= 0.09/22) 16.Ng3 Bg4
 17.h3 Bxf3! 18.Qxf3 e5 is the strong
 threat. Ne5 19.Qe2 c5! 20.Bf4 Bf6
 21.Nh5 c4 22.Nxf6+ Qxf6 23.Bxe5
 Qxe5 24.dxc4 bxc4 25.Bxc4 Nxc4
 26.Qxc4 Rxb2 27.Red1 Qxe4
 28.Qxd4 Qxd4 29.Rxd4 g6 30.Rad1
 Kg7 31.R4d2 ½-½ (31) Sevan, S
 (2589)-Postny, E (2673) Stockholm
 2016]

15.cxd4 0.26/20 3:30

[15.Qc2± 0.64/21 was preferable.]

15...exd4= 1:30 16.Bf4 7:30

[16.Bd2!?

16...Nc5 13:30 17.Rc1 3:30 Be7 1:30

18.Bd5 8:30 Deflection 18...Nb4 30

19.Nxd4 30 Rb6! 30 In spite of the
 many minor pieces still on the board,
 Black has seen ahead and prepares a
 rook lift to the kingside. 20.Qd2 13:30

[20.Ng3!?

20...Nbx d3 7:30 21.b4 13:30 Nxf4! 3:30

22.bxc5 30 Bg5! 30 Once more the
 Paraguayan grandmaster shows his

tactical acumen as he plays this timely
 zwischenzug threatening to win the
 queen. 23.Qc2 3:30

[Playing 23.cxb6 would not be losing
 in any way, at least not objectively,
 but the chaotic imbalance might not
 be to Fressinet's taste as he really
 wants to dampen Black's ambitions.
 Nh3+! 24.gxh3 Bxd2 25.Nxd2
 N2f3 would now be deadly. Qg5+!
 26.Kh1 Qxd2 27.Rcd1! Qxf2 28.Rf1
 Qb2! 29.b7 Bxh3 30.Rg1



Against Qg2+. Hoping for Rg3. c5
 0.00/22 and good luck trying to

evaluate this. (Better is 30...h5!±
 -0.80/20 31.Nc6 Qe2)]

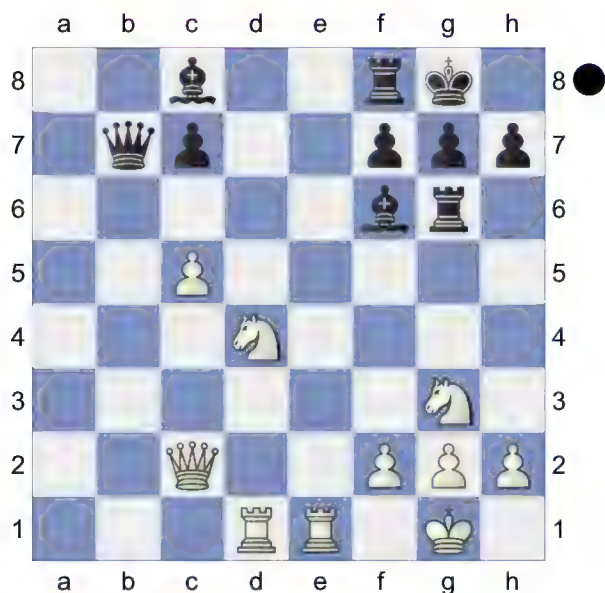
[23.cxb6 Nh3+! (23...Nxd5? 24.bxc7
 Nxc7 25.Ne3+-) 24.gxh3 Bxd2
 25.Nxd2 c5 26.Rxc5 (26.Nxb5
 Qg5+ 27.Kh1 Bxh3±; 26.b7?! Bxb7
 27.Bxb7 Qg5+ 28.Kf1 Qxd2±)
 26...Qxb6± (26...Qg5+? 27.Kf1+-)]

23...Rg6 30 24.Rcd1! 30

[24.Nxb5? Nxg2 (24...Nxd5?
 25.exd5 Bxc1 26.Rxc1+-) 25.Kxg2
 Bxc1+ 26.Ng3 Bf4+-]

[24.Nc6? Qe8 25.Nd4 Nxg2
 26.Kxg2 Bxc1+-]

24...Nxd5 15:08 25.exd5 30 Qxd5 1:13
 26.Nxb5 5:23 Qb7 2:00 27.Nd4 1:47
 Bf6→ 1:14 White needs to defend
 precisely. This pair of bishops is nice.
 28.Ng3 5:08



h5! 50 29.Qe4 3:36

[29.c6 Qb6]

29...h4 1:46 30.c6 3:10 Qb4 10

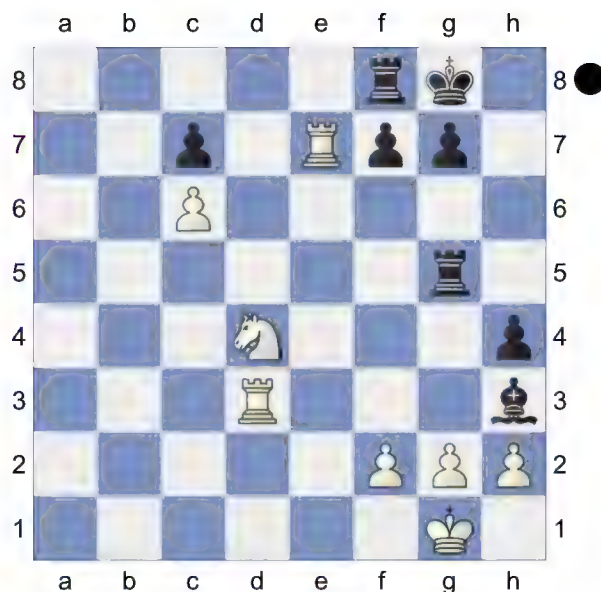
31.Ngf5 -0.86/21 59

[31.Nh5 -0.46/22]

31...Rg5! 43 Black has been outplaying
 White ever so slightly and now has an
 edge thanks to his bishop pair and
 pressure against the king. 32.Ne7+ 1:38
 The common wisdom is to simplify when
 trying to ease pressure, and avoid
 exchanges when on the offensive.
 Naturally this needs to be examined on
 a case-by-case basis, and here this only
 makes things worse. 32...Bxe7 1:30
 33.Qxe7 3 Qxe7 11 34.Rxe7 4 Bh3
 2:08 35.Rd3 2:15

(Diagram)

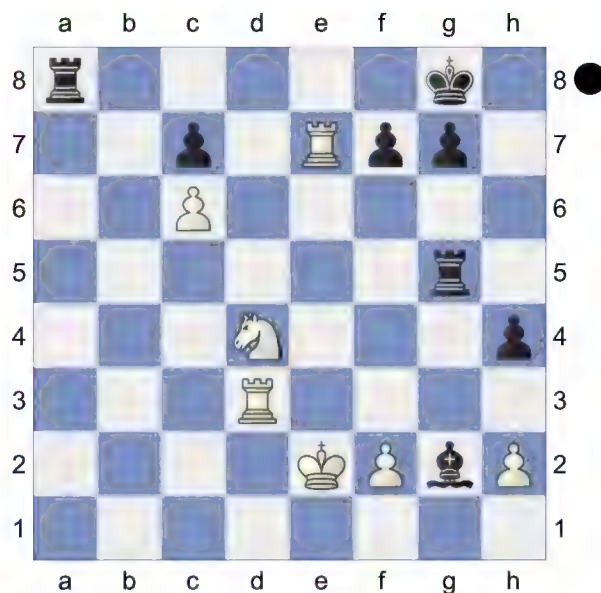
Ra8! 5:45 Another strong zwischenzug.
 The back rank threats take precedence
 needless to say. (-> ...Ra1+)



[Much worse is 35...Rxb2+?! 36.Kh1
 Rg4 37.Rxb2=]

36.Rde3? -4.83/19 46 White finally
 cracks under the pressure. White does
 not recover from this.

[36.Kf1 was the ugly, but necessary
 choice. Bxb2+ 37.Ke2



Rc8 -0.78/21 and the game is not over
 yet. (Black should try 37...Ra2+!
 -1.36/20 38.Ke3 Bd5)]

[36.Kf1 -0.94/22 was the crucial
 defense. Bxb2+ 37.Ke2]

36...Rxb2+ 35 37.Kh1 36 Ra1+ 7

Black is clearly winning. 38.Re1 3 Rxe1+ 10 39.Rxe1 3 Rg4 5 Threatens to win with ...Bg2+.

[Much less strong is 39...Rxf2 40.Rc1-+]

40.Re8+ 1:18 Kh7 6 White must now prevent ...Bg2+. 41.Rd8 30:17 Bg2+ 30:26 42.Kg1 22 Bd5+! cutting off the white rook from his knight, with ...Rxd4 to follow.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

[Weaker is 42...Bxc6+ 43.Kf1 Bg2+ 44.Ke2-+]

0-1

□ Wang,Yiye

■ Li,Di

CHN-chT Div-B (5.1)

[Kitty Kat]

B00

2439

2570

14.08.2024

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6

[4...Bg4 5.d5 (5.Be3 e6 6.Be2 Be7 7.d5 exd5 8.exd5 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Ne5 10.Be2 0-0 Chess Informant ECO Chess Informant ECO B4 2002) 5...Nb8 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 g6 8.Bg5 Bg7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.Qe2 c6 11.f4 Qc7 12.g4 h6 13.Bh4 Nh7 14.e5 g5 15.dxc6 Qxc6 16.Bg2 Qc8 17.exd6 e6 18.f5 gxf4 19.fxe6 1-0 (29) 2 b4 and 2 a3 (2587)-Kampal, T (2477) 69/374 Ubeda 1997 (1)]

5.d5 Nb8 6.Bg5N

[6.Be3 g6 7.Qd2 b5 8.Bd3 Bg7 9.Bh6 0-0 10.h4 Bg4 11.h5 Bxh5 12.Nd4 Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #20]

6...Nbd7 7.a4 g6 8.Qd2 White is more active. White is slightly better. 8...Nc5 9.Bd3 h6 10.Be3 Threatens to win with Bxc5. 10...Nxd3+ 11.cxd3 Bg4 12.Nd4 Bd7 13.a5 0.54/22

[13.h3± 1.03/20]

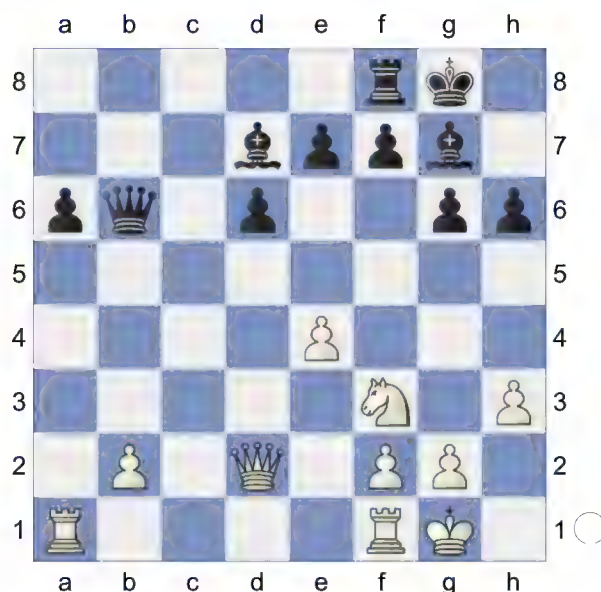
13...Ng4± 14.Bf4! Bg7 15.Nde2 c5 16.dxc6 0.28/20

[16.h3± 0.73/20 Ne5 17.0-0]

16...bxc6= 17.Na4 Rb8 18.h3 Ne5 0.45/25

[18...e5= 0.09/20]

19.Nb6 And now d4 would win. 19...c5 20.Bxe5 Bxe5 21.0-0 0-0 22.d4 cxd4 23.Nxd4 Rxb6 24.axb6 Qxb6 25.Nf3 aiming for Nxe5! 25...Bg7



26.e5!↑ White is pushing. 26...Bb5

[26...Be6 27.exd6]

27.Rfe1 dxe5 28.Nxe5 Rd8 29.Qf4 Qf6 30.Qe3 e6 0.84/22

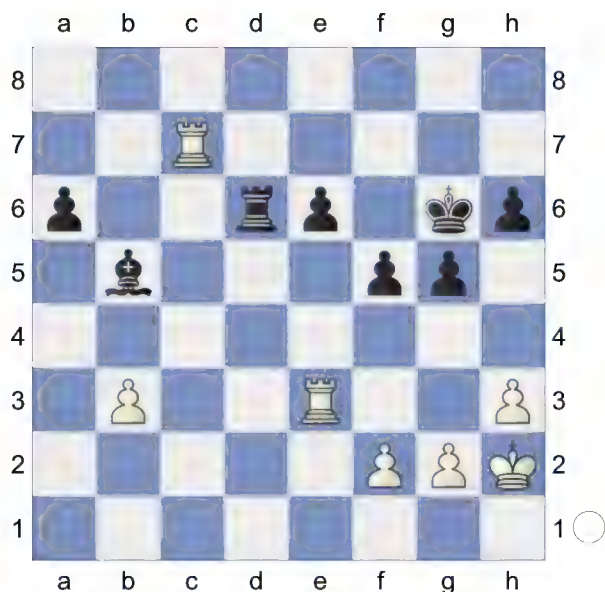
[30...Qd6= 0.25/23 remains equal.]

31.Rac1!± g5 32.b3 0.78/21

[White should play 32.Rc5! 1.17/23]

32...Qxe5 33.Qxe5 Bxe5 34.Rxe5 Endgame. KRR-KRB 34...Kg7 35.Re3 Kg6 36.Rc7 Rd1+ 37.Kh2 Rd2 38.Rf3 f5 39.Re3 Rd6

(Diagram)

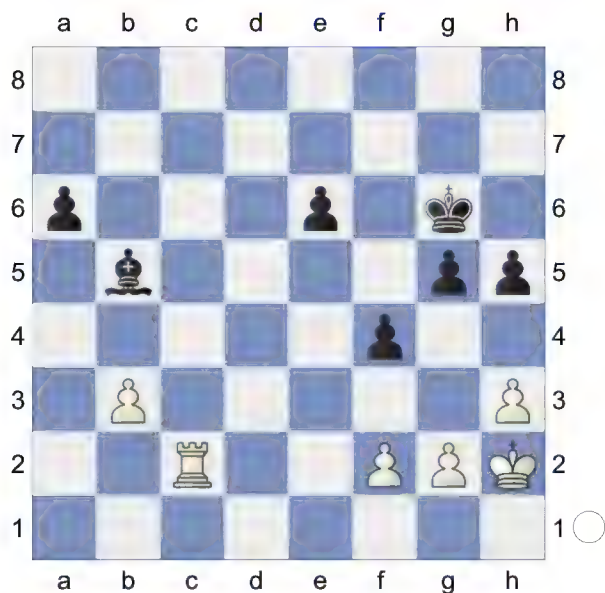


40.Rc3! Repels Bc6 40...f4 41.Rc8 Rd2 42.Rc2 Rxc2 2.23/16

[42...Rd3± 0.85/17 was necessary.]

43.Rxc2 KR-KB 43...h5 3.48/24

[♠43...Kf6 2.23/25 44.Kg1 h5]



44.h4!+- gxh4 45.Kh3 f3 46.gxf3 Kg5 47.Rc5+ Kf4

(Diagram)

48.Kxh4? 0.10/22

[But not 48.Rxh5 Kxf3 49.Re5



(49.Kxh4 Kxf2 50.Re5 Be2±)

49...Kxf2±]

[48.Rc3!+- 1.62/22]

48...Be8? 7.14/23

[48...Kxf3= 0.10/22 49.Re5 (49.Kxh5 Kxf2 50.Re5 Be2+ 51.Kg5 Ke1±) 49...Be2]

49.Rc8 White is clearly winning.

49...Bg6 50.Rc6 a5 51.Rxe6 Bc2

52.Rf6+ Ke5 53.Kg5 h4 54.Ra6 h3

55.Rxa5+ Kd4 56.Ra4+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)

1-0

B00

□ Shevchenko,Kirill

2651

■ Boyer,Mahel

2427

Titled Tuesday intern op 19th Dec Early ..

[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.d5 Nb8 5.Bf4 Nf6 6.Bc4 a6

[6...g6 7.f3 exf3 8.Nxf3 Bg7 9.0-0

0-0 10.Qe2 c6 11.Rad1 cxd5

12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Rxd5 Qb6+
 14.Be3 Qxb2 15.Rb5 Qc3 16.Rc5
 Qa3 17.Ng5 Bg4 18.Rxf7 Rxf7
 19.Qf2 Bf5 20.Rc8+ Bf8 21.Bxf7+
 1-0 (22) 8. g5 a6 9. d2 e8 6
 (2460)-7. c4 b5 8. e2 59053 (2380)
 Saint-Vincent 84/(463) 2002 (4)]

7.Nge2N

[7.f3 b5 8.Bb3 c5 9.dxc6 Qxd1+
 10.Rxd1 Nxc6 11.Nd5 Nxd5
 12.Bxd5 Bb7 13.Bxe4 e6 14.Ne2
 Bc5 3. c3 de4 4.d5 b8 31874-7.f3
 Analyse]

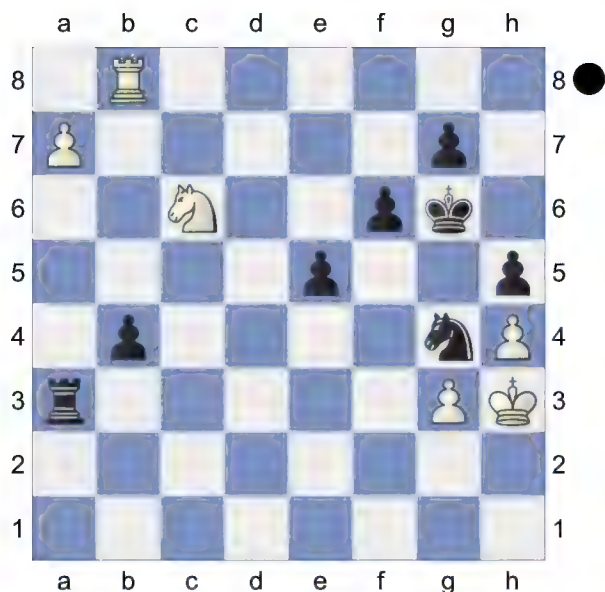
7...b5 8.Bb3 The position is equal.
 8...c5 aiming for ...c4. 9.dxc6! Qxd1+
 10.Rxd1 Nxc6 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.Bxd5
 Bb7 13.Bxe4 e6 14.0-0 Na5 15.Bxb7
 Nxb7 16.Nd4 Rc8 17.Rfe1 Bc5
 18.Nb3 Bb6 19.c3 Ke7 20.Be5 f6
 21.Bd4 Rc6 22.Rd3 Rd8 23.Rh3 h6
 24.Rg3 Kf7 25.h4 -0.82/26
 [25.Bxb6= -0.29/22 Rxb6 26.Rge3]
 25...e5 26.Bxb6 Rxb6 27.Rg4 h5
 -0.57/25
 [27...a5= -0.96/23 28.Kf1 f5]
 28.Rge4!  Nd6↑ Black is more active.
 29.Rb4 -1.54/20
 [White should play 29.R4e2  -0.48/23]

(Diagram)

29...Nc4!  30.a4 Nxb2 -0.58/21
 Black is more active.
 [30...bxa4  -1.41/22 Threatens to win
 with ...Rxb4. 31.Rxa4 Nxb2]
 31.Nc5!  Nd3 -0.06/26
 [31...Nc4!  -0.69/24 32.Nxa6 Na3
 (32...Rxa6 33.axb5 Ra5 34.Rxc4=)
 33.axb5 Nc2 (33...Nxb5? 34.Nc5+;
 33...Rxb5 34.Ra1=)]
 32.Rd1 -0.80/22
 [32.Nxd3!= -0.06/26 remains equal.



Rxd3 33.Rc1 (33.c4 Rd4 )]
 32...Nxb4  33.Rxd8 Endgame. KRN-
 KRN 33...Na2 34.Rd7+ -1.83/27
 [34.axb5  -0.90/24 was worth a try.
 axb5 35.Ne4]
 34...Kg6+ 35.Ra7? -3.60/26
 [35.axb5 -1.61/20 was forced. axb5
 (35...Rxb5 36.Ne4 ) 36.Ne4]
 35...Nxc3 36.a5 Rc6 37.Nxa6 Nd5
 ...b4 would now be deadly. 38.Nb8
 Rc1+ 39.Kh2 b4? -0.03/29
 [Black should try 39...Rc7+ -2.77/23
 40.Rxc7 Nxc7]
 40.Rb7 Rc2 41.a6 Black must now
 prevent a7. 41...Rxf2 Hoping for ...Ra2.
 42.a7 Ra2 ...e4 is the strong threat.
 43.Nc6 And now Rb8! would win.
 43...Ne3 (-> ...Ng4+) 44.Rb8? -#7/17
 [44.Kg1= 0.00/22]
 44...Ng4+ Black mates.
 [44...Rxc2+? too greedy. 45.Kh3 Ra2
 46.a8Q (46.a8B? perishes. Ra3+)
 46...Rxa8 47.Rxa8+ -]
 45.Kh3 Ra3+ 46.g3
 (Diagram)
 Ra2! 47.Nxe5+ fxe5



[And not 47...Nxe5 48.a8Q Rxa8 49.Rxa8=]

48.Rb6+ Kh7 49.Rh6+ gxh6 50.a8Q Rh2#

Weighted Error Value: White=0.29 (precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise)
0-1

□ Fressinet, Laurent
■ Bachmann, Axel
129/125 France
[Kitty Kat]

C77
2692
2632
2016

C77: Ruy Lopez: 3...a6 4 Ba4 Nf6, unusual lines

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 d6 7.c3 0-0 8.Nbd2 b5 9.Bc2 d5 10.Re1 d4

[10...dxe4 11.dxe4 Be6 12.Qe2 Qc8 13.Nf1 (13.a4 Qb7 14.b4 Rfd8 15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Rxa8 17.Bd3 Rb8 18.Nb1 Ne8 19.Ng5 Nd8 20.Be3 Bd7 9.♙g5 ♙e6 10.f4 ♘a5- Kragelj, I Beer-Sheva 43/89 1987)

13...Bc4 14.Bd3 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Rd8 16.Qc2 Qe6 Motylev, A (2683)-

Smirnov, P (2599) 115/(116) Russia 2012]

11.Nf1N 0.07/22

[11.h3± 0.46/23 is more appropriate. h6 12.cxd4 exd4 13.a4 Be6 14.Nb3 Qd7 15.Bf4 Nh7 16.Rc1 Ng5 17.Nxg5 hxg5 18.Bg3 Nb4 19.Bb1 Bxb3 20.Qxb3 c5 21.e5 Qe6 22.Qd1 Rfd8 23.Re4 Rac8 24.Qh5 Qh6 25.Qe2 Qe6 26.Rd1 (44) Chapter C75-Games Chapter C75 Game 5]

11...Nd7 12.a4 White is slightly better.

12...Rb8 13.axb5 axb5 14.Bb3! Bf6



15.cxd4 0.33/23

[15.Qc2!± 0.74/22]

15...exd4± 16.Bf4 Nc5 17.Rc1 Be7 18.Bd5 Deflection 18...Nb4 aiming for ... Bg4. 19.Nxd4 Strongly threatening Qd2. 19...Rb6 20.Qd2

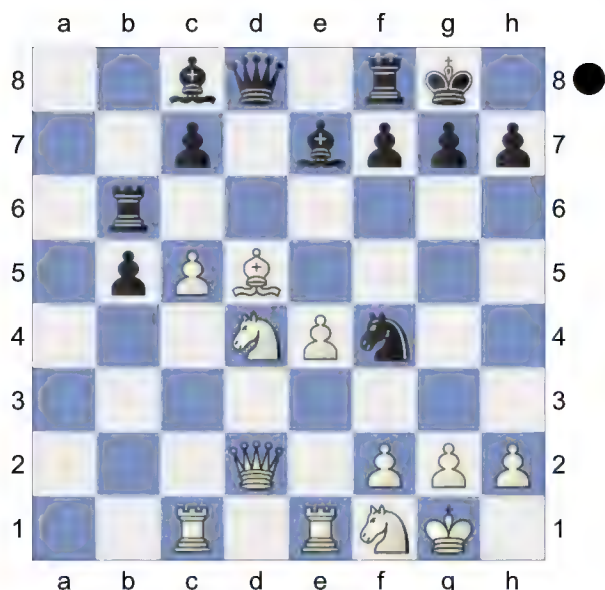
[20.Ng3!/?]

20...Nbx d3 21.b4! Nxf4! 22.bxc5

(Diagram)

Bg5! 23.Qc2

[23.cxb6 is interesting. Nh3+ 24.gxh3 Bxd2 25.Nxd2 Qg5+ 26.Kh1]

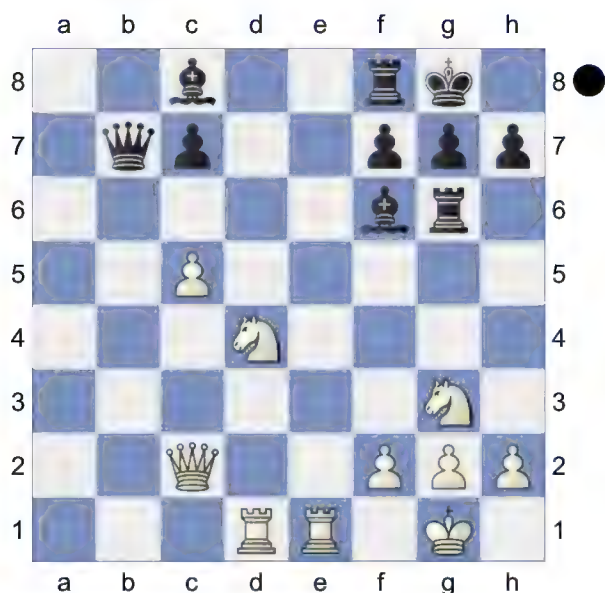


23...Rg6 Hoping for ...Nxg2! **24.Rcd1!**

[24.Nxb5? Nxg2 (24...Nxd5? 25.exd5 Bxc1 26.Rxc1+-) 25.Kxg2 Bxc1+ 26.Ng3 Bf4+-]

[24.Nc6? Qe8 25.Nd4 Nxg2 26.Kxg2 Bxc1+-+]

24...Nxd5 25.exd5 Qxd5 26.Nxb5 Qb7 27.Nd4 Bf6 → White needs to defend precisely. This pair of bishops is nice. **28.Ng3**



h5! Threatens to win with ...h4. **29.Qe4** [29.Qc3 Rd8]

29...h4 30.c6 Qb4 31.Ngf5 -0.83/21

[31.Nf3? -0.41/22 should be considered. Qxe4 32.Nxe4]

31...Rg5 32.Ne7+ Bxe7 33.Qxe7 Qxe7 34.Rxe7 Bh3 35.Rd3 Ra8 (-> ...Ra1+)

[Much worse is 35...Rxg2+?! 36.Kh1 Rg4 37.Rxh3=]

36.Rde3? -4.69/19 Now White is beyond hope.

[36.Kf1? -0.82/18 was the crucial defense. Bxg2+ 37.Ke2]

36...Rxg2+ 37.Kh1 Ra1+ 38.Re1 Rxe1+ 39.Rxe1 Rg4 And now ...Bg2+ would win.

[Weaker is 39...Rxf2 40.Rc1+-]

40.Re8+ Kh7 White must now prevent ...Bg2+. **41.Rd8 Bg2+ 42.Kg1 Bd5+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise)

[Not 42...Bxc6+ 43.Kf1 Bg2+ 44.Ke2+-]

0-1

B00
 Oleksienko, Mikhailo **2636**
 Zubov, Alexander **2604**
 Lvov rapid Cup (13) 09.05.2017
 [Schandorff, Lars, MH]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Bb5 a6! Confronts the bishop immediately. **6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.h3** It is hard to avoid this move; Black can play either ... g4 or ... g4 (after g3).

[8.e5 Nd5 9.Ne4 0-0]

8...0-0 9.Be3

[9.Re1 Rb8 10.Rb1 Nd7! with the idea ...c5.]

[9.Qe2 Nd7 10.e5 a5 11.Rd1 Nb6

12.Bg5 Re8 13.b3 a4 14.Ne4 h6
15.Bh4 g5 16.Bg3 Bf5 17.c4 Qc8
18.b4 Nxc4 19.Nf6+ exf6 20.Qxc4
Be4 21.exd6 cxd6 22.Nd2 Bd5
23.Qd3 Re6 0-1 (45) Grima
Bongailas,I (2321)-7. ♖h4 b6 (2549)
(ol) 50/217 Novi Sad 1990 (2)]

9...Rb8 10.b3N

[10.Rb1 Bb7 11.Qd2 Re8 12.Bh6
Bh8 13.Rfe1 Nd7 14.e5 c5 15.exd6
Bxf3 16.dxe7 Rxe7 17.gxf3 cxd4
18.Nd5 Re5 19.Nf4 Qh4 20.Ng2
Qxh3 21.Rxe5 Nxe5 22.Qf4 Nxf3+
23.Kf1 Re8 11) 2.Nf3: Model Games-
Polzin,R]

10...Nd7! Very flexible. Black is ready to counterattack in the centre with ...c5 at an appropriate moment.

11.Ne2?! -0.18/19 Makes it too easy for Black.

[11.Qd2 Re8 12.Rfe1 Bb7
with a balanced game.]

[11.Qd2± 0.54/24]

11...c5!= 12.c4

[12.c3 Bb7]

12...Bb7

[12...cxd4]

13.Nc3

[13.d5!? Bxa1 14.Qxa1 Re8 15.Bh6
f6∞]

13...cxd4

[13...e6±]

14.Nxd4 c5 15.Nde2 f5 Threatens to win with ...f4. Black plays very actively.

16.exf5 gxf5 White must now prevent ...f4! **17.Qd2 Qe8 18.f3 Qf7±**
The opening was a success. Black has a good King's Indian like position.

19.Bh6 Bxh6 20.Qxh6 Kh8 21.Rad1 f4! 22.Nd5 Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Ne5!

24.Kh2 Qf5 25.Qh4 Rf7 26.Rf2? -2.19/21

[White should try 26.Nc3± -0.58/22]

26...a5

[26...Rg8! 27.Nc3 -2.47/24

Wards off Qb1 (27.Rd2± -1.36/22)

27...Rg5+ 28.Rfd2 Rfg7 ...Rxc2+! is the strong threat and White's position falls apart: 29.Qf2? -5.73/24

(29.Qe1? -#4/14 29.Rxe5 -2.32

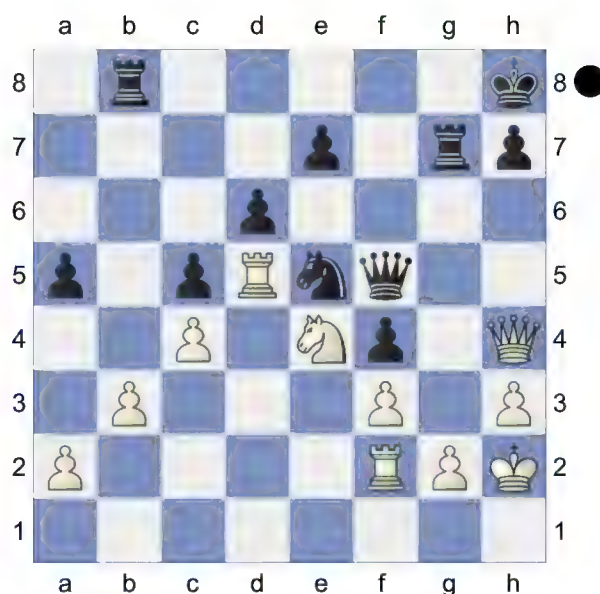
Rxc2+ 30.Rxc2 Nxf3+; 29.Rxe5

-2.51/22 Qxe5 30.Nd5) 29...Rxc2+-+

30.Qxc2 Rxc2+ 31.Kxc2 Qg5+

32.Kf1 Qg3 and wins.]

27.Nc3 Rg7 28.Ne4



a4 -0.17/21 29.bxa4= Rbg8 30.Kh1

Qf7 31.Rxe5 dxe5 32.Rc2 White has

saving chances. It was a rapid game

though and in time trouble Black secured

the full point. **32...Qe8 33.Nxc5** -4.15/29

[33.Qe1= 0.00/24 and White has

nothing to worry.]

33...Qc6? -0.46/21

[33...Rg3!+- -4.15/29 34.Rb2 Qd8]

34.Ne4± Qxa4 35.Rd2 Qxc4 36.Qe1

Repels Qf1+ **36...h6 37.Kh2 Rg6**

38.Qa1 Kh7 -0.04/22

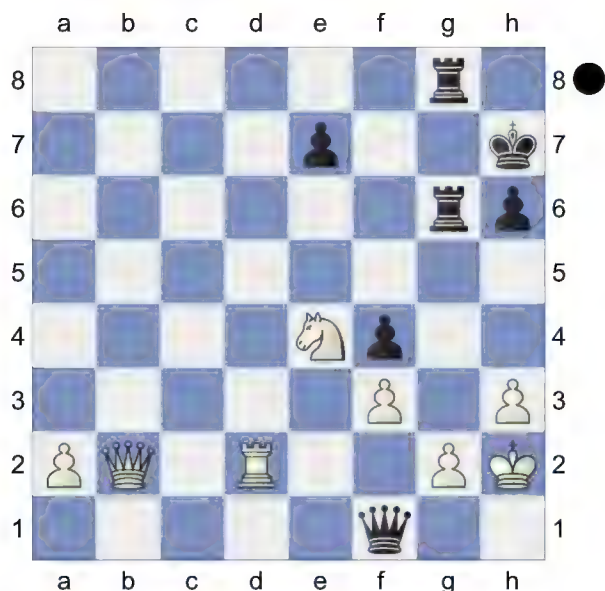
[38...Qc7± -0.62/20]

39.Qxe5= Qf1 40.Qb2? -4.33/27

[40.Qxe7+= 0.22/21 and White is

okay. **R6g7 41.Nf6+ Kh8 42.Nxcg8**

Rxe7 43.Nxe7]

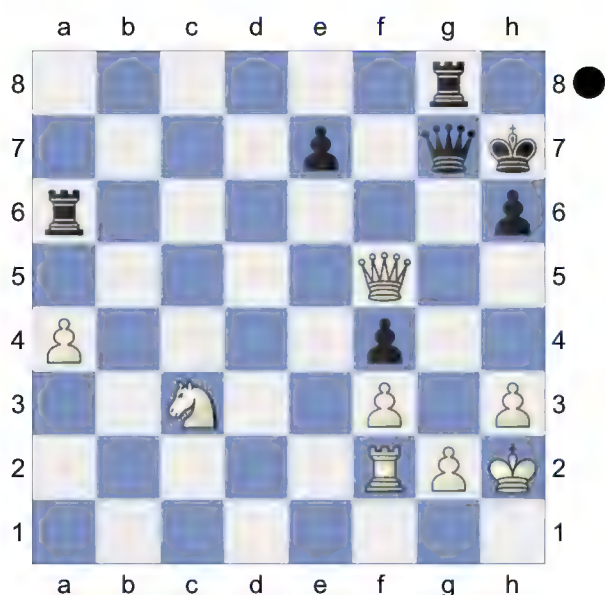


40...Rc6? 0.10/21

[Black should play 40...Rg3!+ -4.33/27 (-> ...Rxb3+!) 41.Nf6+ exf6 42.Rd7+ R3g7 43.Rxg7+ Rxg7]

41.Rf2 Qc4 → Black attacks. 42.Qe5 Qf7 43.a4 Ra6 44.Nc3 Qg7 45.Qf5+ -1.53/22

[45.Re2= -0.06/21]



45...Kh8!± Some like it hot 46.Ne4 -4.63/22

[46.Qb5± -1.60/19 is tougher. Rd6 47.Qb2]

46...e5? -0.84/23

[Less strong is 46...Rxa4 47.Qxf4 Rf8 48.Qd2=]

[46...Rg6+ -4.63/22 47.Ng5 Rxg5]

47.Nc5? -4.29/24

[47.Rb2± -0.84/23 is a better chance.]

47...Rg6+ 48.Qc2 Rc6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.67/ Black=0.52

0-1

B06

□ Ragger,Markus

2686

■ Kadric,Denis

2543

Chess Olympiad | Open (7.1) 01.10.2018 [Justin Tan,Kitty Kat]

B06: Modern Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 Kadric is not a very theoretical player, but I was surprised to see even him essaying the Nimzowitsch against a near 2700! Let's just say it didn't really work. Generally, I think the ensuing Yugoslav attack-type battles are favouring White quite heavily.

[4...Bg4 5.Be3 e6 6.d5 exd5 7.exd5 Ne5 8.Be2 Bxf3 9.Bxf3]

5.Be3 Bg7 6.Qd2 0-0 7.d5 Not the most popular move, but an effective one. 7...Nb8

[7...Ne5 8.Nxe5 dxe5 9.f3 Bd7 10.0-0-0±]

[7...Nb4 1.32/17 7...Nb8 0.91 8.a3 Na6 9.Bxa6 bxa6 10.Bh6± 0-1 (31) Giri,A (2782)-Aronian,L (2767) chess.com INT 2018 (10.Nd4 0.87/20 10.Bh6 1.32 Ng4 11.Bg5±)]

8.Bh6 White is better.

[8.h3 c6 9.g4 b5 10.a3 Qa5
11.Rb1 b4 12.axb4 Qxb4 13.Bd3
cxd5 14.g5 Nh5 15.Nxd5 Qb7
16.Qb4 Qxb4+ 17.Nxb4 Bacrot,E
(2714)-Hera,I (2620) 137/(40) France
2018]

8...c6 9.h3

[White can play even more directly
with 9.0-0-0 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.gxf3

A) 11...cxd5 is probably best, albeit
not the most natural. White can
continue his attack: 12.h4!
And now h5 would win. d4 13.Nd5
e6 (13...Nxd5? [2.23/23](#))

13...e6 0.66 14.exd5 Nd7
15.h5!+-) 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Nxf6
Qxf6 16.h5! aiming for hxg6. Kg8
(16...g5 17.h6+ Kh8 18.Qxd4±)
17.f4→;

B) 11...Nbd7 12.h4! with a vicious
attack.

B1) 12...Nh5 13.Bxg7 Nxd7
14.h5 [1.06/18](#) (14.Be2!
[1.57/22](#)) 14...Nxd5± 15.Be2
f4 would now be deadly. Qb6
16.Rxh5! gxh5 17.Qg5+ Kh8
18.Qxe7±;

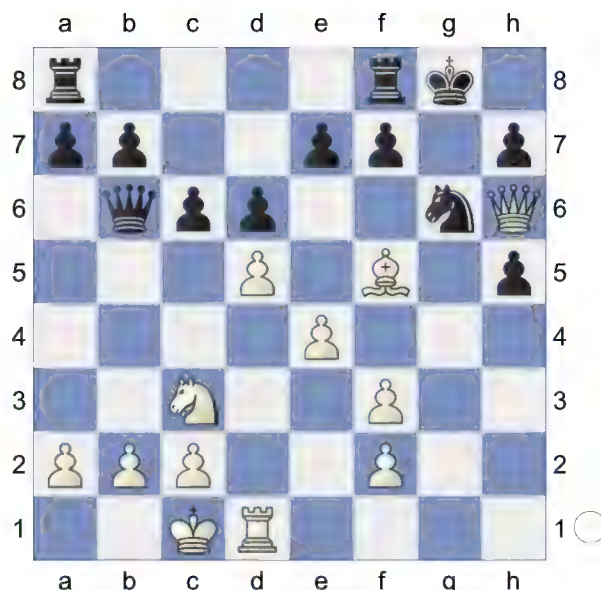
B2) 12...Bxh6 13.Qxh6 Qb6
[1.69/22](#) (13...Nh5± [1.09/20](#))
14.h5+- Nxd5? [4.20/19](#)
(14...Kh8± [1.49/19](#)) 15.Rxh5+-
gxh5 16.Bh3 White wants to
mate with Rg1+. Ne5 17.Bf5!
Ng6

(Diagram)

18.e5!+-]

9...a6N

[9...b5 can be played at once.
Strongly threatening ...b4. 10.a3 Qb6
11.Bxg7 (11.Be2 a6 12.g4 b4
13.axb4 Qxb4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Ra4



Qxb2 16.0-0 Qb6 17.Rb1 Qc7
18.g5 Nfd7 19.dxc6 Nxc6 20.Nd5
Qd8 21.Qc3+ Nce5 22.Rc4

Part Chapter-Games Part 2 Chapter

3) 11...Kxg7 12.Nd4 a6 13.g4!
with the idea to play a very direct g5
and h4 is critical.]

[9...Bxh6 10.Qxh6 Qb6 11.0-0-0
Qxf2 12.Bd3 Nbd7 13.Rdf1 Qc5
14.Ng5 Veselsky (2572)-Csanadi
(2432) Yerevan (ol) 68/128 1996]

10.g4! White is more active. 10...Bxh6?
[1.80/21](#)

[10...b5 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.a3
is still dangerous, but was the lesser
evil option.]

[10...b5± [1.04/22](#)]

11.Qxh6+- b5 [2.31/18](#)

[11...e5± [1.59/19](#)]

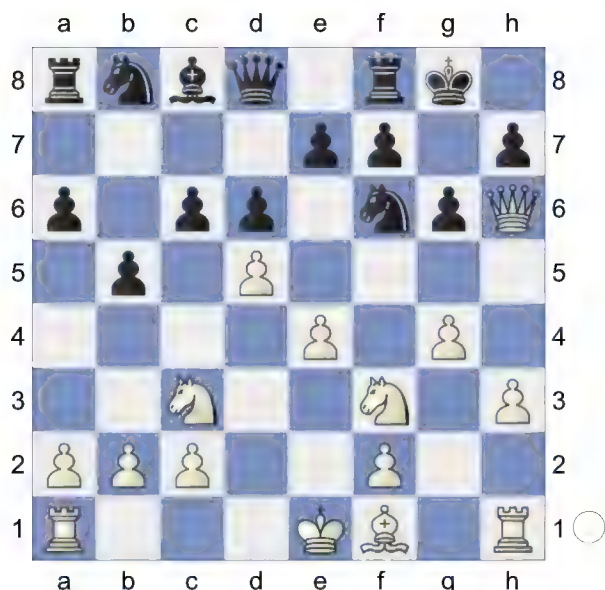
(Diagram)

12.Ng5! e5 13.dxc6

[13.h4 Bxg4 14.dxc6+-]

13...Be6 [2.88/19](#) Prevents Nd5.

[13...Nxc6 14.Nd5 Threatening mate
with Nxf6+. Re8 15.0-0-0+-]



[13...Nxc6 1.75/18 14.Nd5 Re8]
14.h4 Ra7 15.h5 Bxg4 5.84/21
 [15...Re8 3.67/18 was necessary.
 16.hxg6 fxg6 17.Nxe6 Rxe6]
16.Nd5 White is clearly winning.
16...Re8 17.c7 Rxc7 18.Nxc7 Qxc7



19.Nxh7! Remove Defender 19...Qe7
 [19...Nxh7 20.hxg6]
20.hxg6 Black got outplayed after the opening.
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.65
1-0

B00
2774
2741
 Thessaloniki FIDE GP (11) 03.06.2013
 [Szabo,K, Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.d5 Nb8 5.Bc4

[Other main lines are 5.f3 and e6]
5...Nf6 6.Bf4 With the idea Qe2. White has compensation. **6...a6**

[6...e6 7.dxe6 Bxe6 1/2 Anand-Leko, Monaco (blindfold) 2005 Other options are 8.Bxe6 or fxe6 The main line is by far 9.Qxd8+ , but the text move also has a huge amount of theory. Kxd8 10.0-0-0+ Kc8 11.Nh3 White's ♘ chose another way, but it transposes to the game.]

[6...g6 7.f3 exf3 8.Nxf3 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2 c6 11.Rad1 cxd5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Rxd5 Qb6+ 14.Be3 Qxb2 15.Rb5 Qc3 16.Rc5 Qa3 17.Ng5 Bg4 18.Rxf7 Rxf7 19.Qf2 Bf5 20.Rc8+ Bf8 21.Bxf7+ 1-0 (22) 8. ♕g5 ♘a6 9. ♘d2 ♙e8 6 (2460)-7. ♕c4 b5 8. ♕e2 59053 (2380) Saint-Vincent 84/(463) 2002 (4)]

7.Qe2 b5 8.Bb3 Nbd7N

[8...c5 9.dxc6 Nxc6 10.Rd1 Qa5 11.Bd2 Nd4 12.Nxe4 Qc7 13.Nxf6+ gxf6 14.Qe4 Bb7 15.Qxd4 Bxg2 16.Bd5 Rd8 17.f3 e6 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Qxf6 Rg8 20.Be4 Bxh1 21.Ne2 Nimzo Indian Alternative-7...c5 8.O-O cxd4 with 10...a Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 - 2023]

9.0-0-0

[9.Nxe4± Nxe4 is the main line, with some top games. For example: 10.Qxe4 aiming for d6. Nc5 11.Qe3

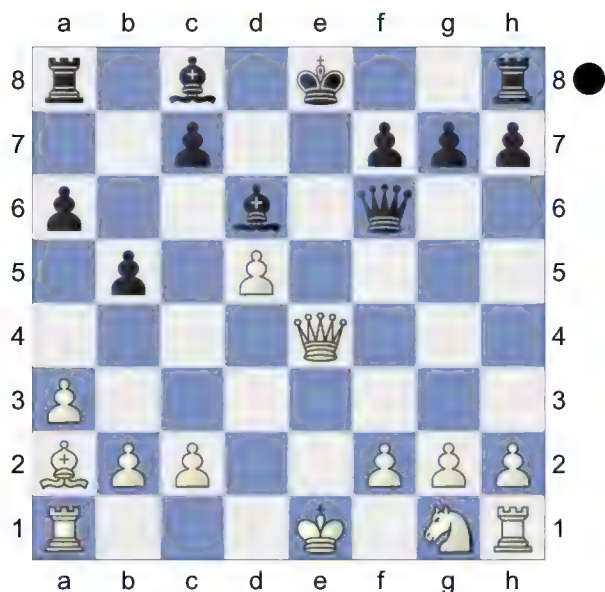
(11.Qe5 -0.29/26 11.Qf3 0.42 Nxb3 12.axb3 f6 13.Qe4 Bb7 14.c4 e5; 11.Qf3!?) 11...Nxb3 12.Qxb3 e6 13.0-0-0 exd5

A) 14.Rxd5 Bd6! 15.Bxd6 Be6! 16.Nf3 (16.Qe3!? cxd6 17.Ne2=) 16...cxd6 17.Qe3 Ng5 is the strong threat. 0-0= With an equal position, Leko-Aronian, Nice (blindfold) 2008.;

B) 14.Qg3 c6 15.Re1+ Be6 16.Nf3 Qd7!]

[9.a3 0.12/21 9.f3 0.49 Nc5 10.Ba2 e5!

A) 11.Bxe5 Bd6 12.Bxf6? -2.20/23 (12.Bxd6!= -0.02/20 and White stays safe. Qxd6 13.Nf3) 12...Qxf6-+ 13.Nxe4 Nxe4 14.Qxe4+



Kd8!;

B) 11.dxe6 Bxe6 12.Bxe6 Nxe6= Anand-Aronian, Mainz rapid 2007 13.Nxe4]

9...Nc5 The most common move. Nowadays 9...d5 is becoming more popular than ever, but Kamsky preferred a solid line. **10.f3** Qd7

[10...b4? 0.93/21 10...Qd7 0.42 and

Black is better, Stefansson-Chudinovskih, Plovdiv 2008. 11.Na4 Shirov]

11.Nxe4 -0.84/21

[11.fxe4 Hoping for Nf3. b4 Shirov 12.Na4 (12.Nb1!? -0.35/20 12.e5 0.37 Qg4; 12.e5!?) 12...Nxa4± 13.e5 Nc5! 14.exf6 Nxb3+ 15.axb3 gxf6 16.Nf3 Bb7!± with a double-edged fight, Gelfand-Shirov, Rethymnon 2003.]

[11.Be5 b4 12.Bxf6 (12.Nxe4 -0.51/22 12.Bxf6 0.50 Nxb3+ 13.axb3 Nxd5) 12...gxf6 13.Nxe4 Black looks nicely placed. Nxb3+?! Too optimistic. 14.axb3 Bh6+ 15.Kb1 0-0!]

[11.fxe4= 0.26/25 b4 12.e5]

11...Nfxe4? 1.08/17

[Before only 11...Nxb3+ was played 12.axb3! Threatens to win with d6. Nxd5]

[11...Nxb3+? -0.84/21 keeps the pressure on. 12.axb3 Nxd5]

12.fxe4± a5 13.a3 0.69/22

[13.Nf3± 1.56/25]

13...Nxb3+± The first novelty in the game. It's funny, but there are two novelties in this game. **14.cxb3** g6 Now we are back in the line with 11. ♖c3 ♖d8 12. ♖e2 ♖e6 13. ♖g3 g6 14. ♖h6 ♖fe8. Black is weak on the dark squares

15.Nf3N The second novelty. White has more active pieces. **15...Bg7 16.Kb1!** A very logical prophylactic move. The ♔ has found a safe place, preparing for the next move. Rc1 would now be deadly.

[The engine suggests 16.Ne5 0.24/21 16.Kb1 1.09 , but in a practical game, the players don't want to allow Bxe5 . For example: 17.Bxe5 f6 and Black has an acceptable position.

Immediately 18.Bg3 is similar to the game.]

16...0-0 17.Rc1 A strange move, but Caruana wanted to avoid ...c4. On the other hand, it is not so easy to find a logical plan with White. **17...b4 1.52/21** Kamsky prepares for ♖g8.

[♖17...a4 1.15/21]

18.a4±

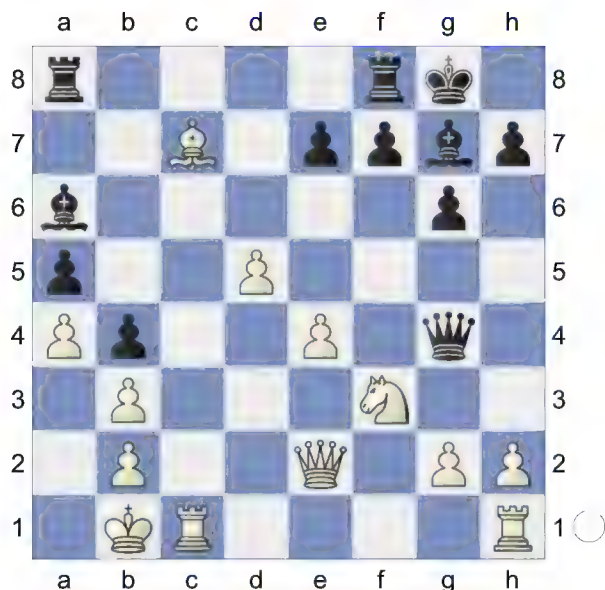
[18.Bxc7 a4 19.Qe3 (19.axb4? axb3 20.b5 Ra2-+) 19...bxa3±]

[18.Rxc7?! Qg4 19.g3 Ba6±]

18...Qg4 19.Bxc7 1.03/23

[♖19.g3 1.45/22]

19...Ba6



20.Qe3 -0.29/17

[20.Qd2!± 1.21/20]

20...Qxg2= 21.Be5 -0.97/21

A good move, White wants to open the position, because now he has the "bad" ♖.

[21.Bxa5? Qxb2#]

[21.Nd4= -0.29/21 remains equal. f5 22.exf5 Rxf5 23.Rhd1]

21...Qe2↑ Kamsky is also very ambitious, he immediately tries to take the initiative. Now Black threatens f4. Black is in control. **22.Qxe2 Bxe2 23.Bxg7!?**

A very interesting tactical move.

23...Bxf3

[Much worse is 23...Kxg7?! 24.Ne5=]

24.Bxf8 Bxe4+ A cold-blooded move, Black ignores the hanging centre ♖...

25.Ka2 but White too... **25...Bxh1 -0.02/26**

[25...Kxf8± -1.05/29 26.Rhd1 f5]

26.Bxe7= Both players have played the logical moves, but now Black has to find an acceptable answer. **26...Bxd5±** Endgame. Too dangerous. White must now prevent ...Kg7. **KRB-KRB 27.Rd1!** A good move, White frees the f1-square for his ♖. **27...Ra7 28.Bf6** Still Black is very optimistic. On the other hand, he needs to play aggressively, because the h4 ♖ is a big weakness on his ♗ side.

[28.Rxd5? perishes. Rxe7 29.Rxa5 f5 30.Ra8+ Kg7-+]

28...Rd7 29.Rc1! Bb7 It's forced. Prevents Rc8+. **30.Rc5 Rd6 31.Be5 Re6 32.Rxa5 f6 1.05/21**

[32...f5= 0.29/24]

33.Bd4 0.51/22

[33.Bc7± 1.05/21]

33...g5 0.99/21

[33...Bc6± 0.51/22]

34.Rb5± Be4 35.Rxb4! f5 Loses immediately, probably a move made in time trouble. **36.Rb6? 0.04/27**

[Better is 36.Ka3+- 1.85/22]

36...Re8? 2.22/23

[36...Kf7= 0.04/27]

37.a5 f4 2.55/22 was the only defence [♖37...Rd8 1.99/21 38.Bc5 Rc8]

38.Rf6 1.07/18

[38.Rb5+- 2.55/22 is more deadly.]

38...Rd8 39.Bc5 0.18/21

[White should play 39.Be5± 0.74/23]

39...Kg7 1.05/21 and maybe Black can hope for survival. The computer suggests

[39...f3!= 0.18/21]
40.Re6 , but I like the text move too.
40...Bd5 41.Re5 0.08/18
 [41.Re1± 0.73/20]
41...Kf6= The position is equal. **42.Bd4±**
 Followed by ♖ f5. **42...Bxb3+**
 was an interesting move. Discovered
 Attack **43.Kxb3 Rxd4=** and Black
 activates his ♔ on the ♔ side. The
 position is very unclear. KR-KR **44.Re8**
 helps only White, because **44...Rd7↑** or
45.Kc4 Rc7+ and White has some
 initiative. In the event of **46.Kd4**
 And now b4 would win. **46...Rb7 47.Kc3**
 Strongly threatening b4. **47...Rc7+**
48.Kd4 Rb7 49.Kc3 Rc7+ and White
 looks nicely placed, as his pieces are
 more active and also in such positions
 the ♕ is stronger than the ♖.
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/
 Black=0.30. Loss on time!?
1-0

B00

□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2774**
 ■ **Bacrot,Etienne** **2725**
 Thessaloniki FIDE GP (6) 28.05.2013
 [Szabo,Krisztian, MH]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.d5
Nb8 5.Bc4

[5.f3 e6]
5...Nf6 6.Bf4 White has compensation.
6...a6

[6...e6 7.dxe6 Bxe6 8.Bxe6 fxe6
 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.0-0-0+ Kc8
 11.Nh3!? was an interesting move]
 [6...g6 7.f3 exf3 8.Nxf3 Bg7 9.0-0
 0-0 10.Qe2 c6 11.Rad1 cxd5
 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Rxd5 Qb6+

14.Be3 Qxb2 15.Rb5 Qc3 16.Rc5
 Qa3 17.Ng5 Bg4 18.Rxf7 Rxf7
 19.Qf2 Bf5 20.Rc8+ Bf8 21.Bxf7+
 1-0 (22) 8. ♕g5 ♖a6 9. ♖d2 ♔e8 6
 (2460)-7. ♕c4 b5 8. ♕e2 59053 (2380)
 Saint-Vincent 84/(463) 2002 (4)]

7.Qe2 b5 8.Bb3 Nbd7N 0.43/26
 [8...c5!= 0.00/24 9.dxc6 Nxc6
 10.Rd1 Qa5 11.Bd2 Nd4 12.Nxe4
 Qc7 13.Nxf6+ gxf6 14.Qe4 Bb7
 15.Qxd4 Bxg2 16.Bd5 Rd8 17.f3 e6
 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Qxf6 Rg8 20.Be4
 Bxh1 21.Ne2 Nimzo Indian
Alternative-7...c5 8.O-O cxd4 with 10...
a Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4
- 2023]

9.0-0-0
 [9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Qxe4 Black must
 now prevent d6. Nc5 11.Qe3
 (11.Qe5 -0.27/25 11.Qf3 0.51 Nxb3
 12.axb3 f6 13.Qe4 Bb7 14.c4 e5)
 11...Nxb3 12.Qxb3 e6= with a very
 interesting double-edged fight. White
 has good compensation for two ♖.
 13.0-0-0? dxe6 would now be deadly.
 is a mistake, because exd5
 White hasn't got ♕f3 and Black
 continues with ♕ b7 . 14.Qg3?
 doesn't work, as (14.Rxd5 Bd6!
 15.Bxd6 Black is a ♖ up, but White
 has nice compensation thanks to his
 ♖ and the flexible ♖ structure. Be6
 Karjakin played this line
 enthusiastically with Black, but one
 month ago he himself played this
 move with White. 16.Nf3 cxd6
 17.Qe3 Threatens to win with Ng5.
 0-0; 14.Rxd5!? Bd6□ 15.Bxd6=)
 14...c6!+- and White wins. 15.Re1+
 was an interesting alternative Be6
 16.Nf3 Hoping for Rxe6+! Qd7]
 [9.a3 Nc5 10.Ba2! -0.30/26
 (10.0-0-0 0.28/24) 10...e5

A) 11.Bxe5 Bd6 12.Bxf6? -2.10/22
 (12.Bxd6! 0-0 cxd6 13.b4)
 12...Qxf6+ 13.Nxe4 -2.28/22
 (13.Nf3 -1.89/19 0-0 14.Nd2)
 13...Nxe4+ 14.Qxe4+ Kd8!≡
 Karjakin-Kasimdzhanov, Zug
 2013. Black has enough
 compensation.;

B) 11.dxe6 Bxe6 12.Bxe6 Nxe6
 13.Nxe4]

9...Nc5 10.f3 Qd7!

[10...b4 11.Na4]

11.Nxe4 -0.93/23

[11.fxe4 b4 12.Na4 (12.Nb1
 -0.19/20 12.Na4 0.30 Qg4) 12...Nxa4
 ±/= Black could exchange the ♔ side's
 ♖. 13.e5 transposes to the game After
 13...Nc5! ...Nxb3+ is the strong threat.
 14.exf6 Nxb3+ 15.axb3 next Nf3 is
 good for White. is also comfortable for
 White. gxf6 was also strong 16.Nf3
 Bb7 0.37/21 (16...Qb5= -0.04/18
 17.Qe4 Bb7)]

[11.Be5 0.19/23 11.fxe4 0.55 b4
 12.Bxf6 (12.Nxe4! -0.50/22
 12.Bxf6 0.30 Nxb3+ 13.axb3±
 with some counterplay. Nxd5
 was also possible) 12...gxf6 13.Nxe4
 Nxb3+± and White has a promising
 endgame. 14.axb3 Bh6+!↑
 The natural 15.Kb1 was the best.
 Black defends his c4 ♖ and he
 prepares for ♗e6. In case of 15...0-0!]
 [11.fxe4= 0.25/23 b4 12.e5]

11...Nfxe4? 1.23/17

[11...Nxb3+ 12.axb3 And now d6
 would win. Nxd5]

[11...Nxb3+ 0-0 12.axb3 Nxd5
 13.Bxc7 Qxc7 14.Rxd5 e6]

12.fxe4± a5 Strongly threatening ...a4.

13.a3 0.52/23

[13.Nf3± 0.91/23 aiming for Ne5. a4
 14.Ne5 axb3 15.Nxd7 Discovered

Attack bxa2 16.Kd2 (16.Nxc5 a1Q+
 17.Kd2 Qxb2=) 16...Bxd7 17.Ra1
 (17.Bxc7 Ra4±)]

13...Nxb3+ 14.cxb3 g6 Black is weak
 on the dark squares **15.Nf3** White is
 much more active. The new variation.
15...Bg7 16.Kb1!N The first novelty in
 the game. A logical one, as White
 protects his g-pawn, the engine also
 suggest this one.

[16.Ne5 0.24/19 16.Kb1 1.09 Bxe5
 ±/= and maybe Black can escape.
 In the event of 17.Bxe5 f6 18.Bg3]

16...0-0 17.Rc1 b4 1.69/21

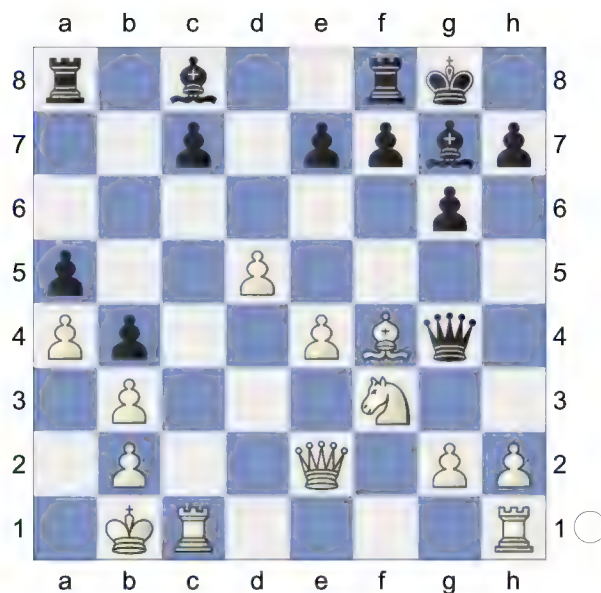
[17...Qg4± 1.03/23 was necessary.
 18.Bxc7 f5]

18.a4+-

[18.Bxc7 a4 19.Ne5 (19.axb4?
 axb3 20.b5 Ra2+) 19...Bxe5
 20.Bxe5 axb3±]

[18.Rxc7 Qg4 19.g3 Ba6±]

18...Qg4

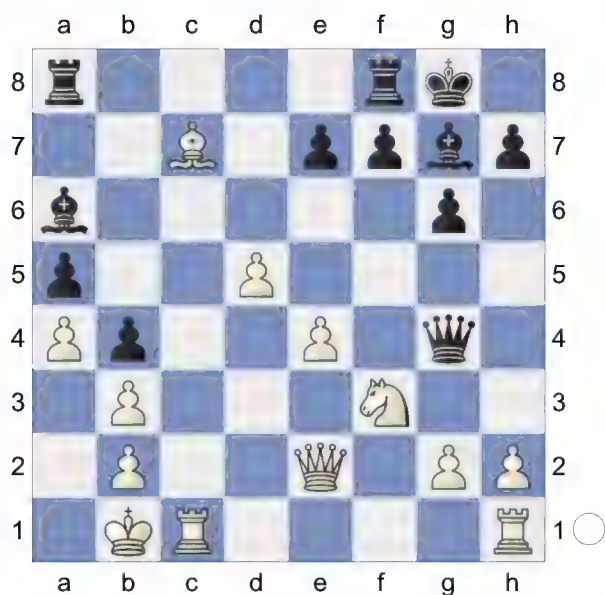


19.Bxc7 1.06/21 A very deep move.
 White wants to push e6 at a good
 moment.

[19.g3! 1.60/21]

19...Ba6 1.48/21

[19...f5 1.06/21 20.e5 Ba6]



20.Qe3? -0.34/17

[20.Qd2!± 1.48/21]

20...Qxg2?!± Black removes his ♔ from the important ♖ side. After this move, the Black ♖ will be weak and White can attack it more easily. **21.Be5** -0.97/22

[21.Bxa5? Qxb2#]

[21.Nd4± -0.39/20 f5 22.exf5 Rxf5 23.Rhd1]

21...Qe2↑ Keeping White busy. A logical move, but it doesn't prevent White's strong answer. **22.Qxe2** A very strong ♖ sacrifice. Caruana opens the long diagonal for his ♔ and he can create a very dangerous attack against the opposing ♖. **22...Bxe2 23.Bxg7 Bxf3**

[Much weaker is 23...Kxg7?! 24.Ne5=]

24.Bxf8 Bxe4+ 25.Ka2 Bxh1 -0.04/22

[Better is 25...Kxf8± -0.83/26 26.Rhg1 (26.Rhd1 f5±) 26...Bxd5]

26.Bxe7= Bxd5± Endgame. KRB-KRB **27.Rd1! Ra7 28.Bf6**

[28.Rxd5 Rxe7 29.Rxa5 f5-+]

28...Rd7 29.Rc1! Bb7 Dodges Rc8+ **30.Rc5 Rd6** White has an indisputable

advantage, but if Black exchanges a7 and c7 ♖ for b3, Black has some drawing chances.

31.Be5 Re6 32.Rxa5 f6 33.Bd4 A little bit strange, but a strong move. Otherwise Black can exchange the ♖ on the ♔ side. **33...g5 34.Rb5** Threatens ♖xc5. **34...Be4** 1.66/21

[34...Bg2± 0.97/21]

35.Rxb4+- f5 After this Black loses more quickly, but his position was already bad. **36.Rb6?** 0.04/25

[White should play 36.Ka3± 1.59/21]

36...Re8? 2.46/21

[36...Kf7= 0.04/25 and Black stays safe.]

37.a5 Caruana simplifies to a winning rook engine. **37...f4** 2.61/22

[37...Kf7 1.99/21 is a better defense. 38.a6 Re6]

38.Rf6? 0.92/19

[38.b4+- 2.61/22 has better winning chances.]

38...Rd8± 39.Bc5 0.12/23

[White should try 39.Bc3± 1.15/23]

39...Kg7 0.64/21

[39...f3!= 0.12/23]

40.Re6± Bd5 41.Re5 0.01/18 A nice win by Caruana!

[41.Re1± 0.92/21]

41...Kf6= The position is equal. was also winning. **42.Bd4 Bxb3+ Discovered Attack 43.Kxb3 Rxd4 KR-KR** also looks hopeless for Black.

After **44.Re8 Rd7 45.Kc4 Rc7+ 46.Kd4 Rb7** and White continues the torture. **47.Kc3 Rc7+ 48.Kd4 Rb7±** now the position changed, because the Black ♔ is very passive and White's pieces dominate the board. **49.Kc3 Rc7+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/

Black=0.28 (precise) . Loss on time!?
1-0

Pichot, Alan **B08**
 Rapport, Richard **2565**
 chess.com IoM Masters (5.13) 27.09.17 **2675**
[N McDonald, MH]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Be2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0

By transposition we have reached a Pirc Classical Variation. **7.d5** Gaining time and space by forcing the knight backwards. The drawback of the pawn advance is that White hasn't got in c2-c4 before playing Nc3, when the d5 point would be supported by the c-pawn in King's Indian style. As a result the pawn on d5 can be undermined with c7-c6, which in the King's Indian doesn't bother White much as he can reply c4xd5, but here it would remove half his centre after c6xd5 and the forced recapture e4xd5. Then Black could utilise the c-file for counterplay against the backward c2 pawn. That at least is the sales pitch for Black. A space advantage is still a space advantage, and the pawn on d5 cramps Black's game. **7...Nb8** A radically different approach with

[7...Ne5 is seen in Arizmendi-Zubov in the archives.]

8.Be3 Two other archives games feature

[8.Re1 e5 in Tal-Petrosian and]

[8.h3 in Rozentalis-Efimov- this seems like a good idea as not controlling g4 allows Black counterplay in the present game.]

8...c6 9.a4 Not only prophylaxis against

a future b7-b5 by Black, but also planning 10.a5 to gain a bind on the queenside and for example deny the black knight the b6 square. **9...b6** The natural way to meet White's pawn push was

[9...a5 but then 10.Nd2 keeps up White's pressure: note that a big hole appears on b5 if Black exchanges on d5.]

[Interesting is 9...Bd7!? staunching up the c6 square and intending to develop the knight with 10... Na6.]

10.Nd4! Black's previous move created a potential weakness on c6 which Pichot hurries to exploit. **10...cxd5 11.exd5** White is better. **11...a6** The natural

[11...Bb7? is strongly met by 12.a5! when

A) 12...Nxd5? **1.12/21** 12...Qc8 0.74 allows 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.Nf5! gxf5 15.Qxd5 Nd7 16.axb6 Nxb6 17.Qxf5 when Black's kingside is weak and facing attack by 18.Bd3.;

B) Meanwhile Black loses material upon 12...Bxd5? 13.axb6! axb6? **3.49/22** (If 13...Qxb6 **3.22/22** 13...a5 2.12 14.Nb3 Qb7 15.Na5 and wins the bishop on d5.; The best chance is 13...a5 but then 14.Ndb5 is abysmal.; $\triangle$ 13...a5 **2.35/19** 14.Ndb5 Bb7) 14.Nxd5+- Rxa1 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Qxa1 and White wins.;

C) Also ghastly looking for Black is 12...Qc8 13.Bf3 Nbd7 14.Nc6 Re8 though at least he hasn't lost any material.;

D) 12...bxa5 13.Nb3! and the white knight captures on a5 with a queenside stranglehold.]

12.f4 In order to play 13. Bf3 without the bishop being hit by Nbd7 and Ne5.

12...Qd7N 1.23/21 Preparing Ng4 after White's next move.

[Δ 12...e6 0.79/19]

13.Bf3± Instead

[13.h3!? would also keep Black under pressure.]

[Another way to consolidate is 13.Qd3!? 0.81/23 13.Bf3 1.17 e.g. Ng4? 1.56/14 (White has everything he want after 13...Bb7 14.Bf3 but; 13...Qc7!? renews the idea of Ng4.; Δ 13...e6 0.81/23) 14.Ne6!± Nxe3 (Also bad for Black is 14...fxe6 2.23/15 14...Nxe3 1.54 15.Bxg4) 15.Nxf8 Kxf8 16.Qxe3 and White has won the exchange.]

13...Ng4 14.Bc1 As a rule a move which reverses development should only be played if you are sure that the opponent has no dynamic way to exploit it. It seems that White's decision is sound here, he only goes wrong on his next move.

[14.Bxg4 Qxg4 hands Black the two bishops. But White should have considered whether 14. Bc1 would be OK before committing himself with 13. Bf3.]

14...Qc7 Putting the queen on its 'proper' hedgehog structure square and forcing White to contend with 15...Qc5.

15.Ne6? 0.18/16 White doesn't have enough for his missing pawn and wrecked structure after

[15.Bxg4? 0.14/20 15.h3 1.24 Bxg4 16.Qxg4 -0.66/22 (16.Qd3!= 0.16/24) 16...Bxd4+? 17.Kh1 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Qxc3]

[With the game move White presses for the initiative when he should consolidate with 15.h3 Nf6 (Or 15...Nh6 1.70/20 15...Nf6 1.17 16.g4!? shutting out the knight on

h6.) 16.Be3 with a grip on the centre.]

[15.Bxg4?! Bxg4 16.Qd3 Bc8=]

[Better is 15.h3± 1.22/21 Nf6 16.Re1]

15...fxe6=

[But not 15...Bxe6? 3.25/21 15...fxe6 0.27 16.dxe6 when both a8 and g4 are hanging.]

16.Bxg4 e5 17.Bxc8?! -0.37/25

[Instead 17.Kh1! -0.23/20 17.Ne4 0.31 holds the balance.]

[17.Ne4± 0.34/21]

17...Qxc8? 18.fxe5 Qc5+? Objectively speaking it was better to forgo this check so that the black queen doesn't become a target of a future Ne4 time-gaining move. After

[18...Rxf1+ 19.Qxf1 Bxe5 20.Qd3 Nd7 leaves Black with a slight edge.]

19.Kh1 Nd7 Rather than take back the pawn on e5 Rapport seizes the chance to take over the initiative with this calm developing move. After

[19...Rxf1+ 20.Qxf1 Bxe5 21.Qd3 Nd7 22.Ne4 Qc7 23.Bg5 Nf6 the position is equal.]

20.Bg5? -0.37/23 It looks risky to hold onto the extra pawn, but in fact after

[20.e6 Rxf1+! 21.Qxf1 Rf8 Repels Qf7+ 22.Qe2 Ne5 0.95/21 (22...Nf6!= 0.13/21) 23.Bg5! Black doesn't have any tactical blow along the f-file so White would have the better of it.]

[20.e6= 0.06/23 is more appropriate. Rxf1+ 21.Qxf1]

20...Nxe5

[20...Rxf1+ seems wilder. 21.Qxf1 Bxe5 22.Bxe7 Re8]

21.Bxe7 Rxf1+ 22.Qxf1 Qb4! The attack on b2 is awkward for White. The queen is also getting out of range

of the white knight, as if

[22...Re8 at once White has 23.Ne4 with ideas of Nf6+ when the black queen moves.]

23.Re1 -1.27/22

[23.Rb1= -0.09/22 remains equal.]

23...Re8!♣ White's bishop is obliged to move after which Black can feast on the b2 pawn without worrying about d6 dropping.

[23...Qxb2?! 24.Ne4 Qxc2 25.Nf6+ (25.Nxd6 Qb3=; 25.Bxd6 Nd3=) 25...Bxf6 26.Qxf6=]

24.Bg5 Qxb2 25.Ne4 Qxc2 26.Nf6+ Upon

[26.Nxd6? -3.73/28 26.Nf6+ -1.36 Rf8 White is faced with Nd3 after he saves his queen with deadly threats.]

26...Bxf6 27.Qxf6 Qxa4 Not just grabbing a pawn but also defending the rook on e8. **28.h3**

[If 28.Qxd6? -4.24/22 28.h3 -1.36 Nf7 wins at once for Black.]

[28.Qxd6? Nf7 29.Rxe8+ Qxe8+]

28...Nf7 -0.68/24

[28...Qd7!♣ -1.18/20 White must now prevent ...Qf5. 29.Bd2 Rf8]

29.Ra1 -1.49/19

[29.Be3!♣ -0.68/24]

29...Qc4 30.Bd2 Qxd5 31.Bc3 Ne5 The knight can't be dislodged from e5 which means the black king is safe. Or so it seems.... **32.Rxa6 -2.34/26**

[♠32.Qf2 -1.66/16]

32...Rf8+ 33.Qe7

(Diagram)

Qd1+? -0.01/26 Throwing away the advantage. Instead

[33...Qc4! should allow Black to consolidate his extra pawns e.g. 34.Bxe5 dxe5 35.Ra1 Qc5 36.Qe6+



Kg7 37.Kh2 Rf7 intending 38...Re7 if necessary. Against Ra7]

[33...Qc4!-+ -2.32/24 34.Bxe5 dxe5 (34...Qf1+ 35.Kh2=)]

34.Kh2♣ White puts up resistance

34...Nf3+ Pichot is threatening 35.Ra7 so Rapport decides to force a draw at least. **35.Kg3?** After

[35.gxf3 Qc2+ 36.Kg1! Qxc3 37.Ra7! the threat of mate on h7 saves White. The game might end in a draw by perpetual to the white or black king: Qc1+ 38.Kg2

A) 38...Qd2+ 39.Kg1 (not 39.Kg3? -#21/20 39.Kg1 0.00 Qf4+ and wins.) 39...Qd1+ etc. Or;

B) 38...Qh6 39.Qb7 heading for d5 to set up the perpetual. b5 40.Qd5+ Kh8 41.Qd4+ Kg8 Threatens to win with ...Qg5+. 42.Qd5+ etc.]

[35.gxf3!? Qc2+♠ 36.Kg1 Qxc3 37.Ra7 Qd4+ (37...Rxf3 38.Qxh7+ Kf8 39.Ra8+) 38.Kg2 Qd2+ 39.Kh1 Qd1+ (39...Rxf3 40.Qg7#) 40.Kh2 Qd2+ (40...Qxf3 41.Qxh7#) 41.Kg1 Qd1+ (41...Rxf3 42.Qg7#) 42.Kh2 Qd2+ (42...Qxf3 43.Qxh7#) 43.Kg1

Qc1+ (43...Rxf3 44.Qg7#) 44.Kf2
Qd2+ 45.Kg1=]

35...Nd4 36.Kh2! Nf3+ 37.Kg3

[Still 37.gxf3 draws.]

[37.gxf3!? Qc2+□ 38.Kg1 Qxc3
39.Ra7 Qc1+ (39...Rxf3 40.Qxh7+
Kf8 41.Ra8+) 40.Kg2 Qd2+
41.Kg1=]

37...Nd4 38.Kh2! White wants to mate
with Ra7! **38...Qc1!** And now ...Nf3+
would win.

[38...Qe2 39.Qxe2 Nxe2 40.Bb4±]

[38...Qe2 is more complex. 39.Qxd6
Nf3+ 40.Kg3 Qc4]

39.Qxd6? -4.55/23 A last desperate
attempt to land a blow against the black
king. Loses the game.

[If 39.Bxd4? -2.46/26 39.Qb7 -0.11
Qf4+ 40.Kh1 Qxd4 and Black wins
with his extra pawns, to say nothing of
the threat to mate in three moves.]

[Of course not 39.Bxd4 Qf4+ 40.Kh1
Qxd4#]

[39.Qb7= -0.06/26 Qf4+ (39...Qxc3
40.Ra7=) 40.Kh1 Qf1+ (40...Qc1+
41.Kh2=) 41.Kh2]

39...Qxc3+ 40.Qd5+ Kg7

[40...Rf7? 41.Ra7 Nf3+ 42.gxf3
Qxf3 43.Ra8+ Kg7 44.Qxf3 Rxf3
45.Rb8#]

41.Qe5+ Kg8 42.Qd5+ Kg7

[42...Rf7? 43.Ra7 Nf3+ 44.gxf3
Qxf3 45.Qxf3 Rxf3 46.Rb7+]

43.Ra7+ Kh6 44.Qe4

[After 44.Qb7 Nf5! 45.Qxh7+ Kg5
46.h4+ Nxh4 (-> ...Qe5+) 47.Qe7+
Rf6 Strongly threatening ...Nf5.
48.Ra3 Nf5 wins for Black.]

44...Nf5 Dodges Qh4+. ...Qg3+ is the
strong threat. **45.Qb7** -#16/19

[45.Qf4+-+ -4.77/19 g5 46.Qe4]

45...Qe5+ 46.Kg1 Qg7 -4.53/17

Weighted Error Value: White=0.56/

Black=0.20 (precise)

[If 46...Qg7 -4.92/18 46...Qe3+ -19.
37 47.Qxb6 simplest is exchanging
queens with Qd4+ An eventful
game!]

[Δ46...Qd4+ -#15/21 47.Kh2 Qf4+
48.g3 Qxg3+ 49.Kh1 Qxh3+ 50.Kg1
Qe3+ 51.Kh2 Rd8 52.Qxh7+ Kg5
53.Qe7+ Nxe7 54.Ra2 Rd1 55.Rg2+
Kh4 56.Rg4+ Kxg4 57.Kg2 Qg3#]

0-1

C60

□ Kasimdzhanov, Rustam

2709

■ Nakamura, Hikaru

2767

Zug FIDE GP (6)

24.04.2013

[Kitty Kat]

**C60: Ruy Lopez: Unusual Black 3rd
moves and 3...g6**

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bb5 Nge7
4.Nc3 d6 5.d4 a6 6.Be2 exd4
7.Nxd4 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 White is better.
8...Nc6 9.Qe3N

[9.Qd3 Nb4 10.Qd1 g6 11.Be3
(11.a3 Nc6 12.Be3 Bg7 13.Qd2
Be6 14.0-0 0-0 15.Rae1 Qd7
16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.exd5 Ne7 18.Bd4
Nf5 19.Bxg7 Nxg7 20.Qb4 a5
21.Qc3 Rfe8 22.h3 h5 23.Bd3 Rxe1
24.Rxe1 b6 25.b4 axb4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (32)
Skopec, L (2671)-8.0-0 0-0 9. $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ a6
(2530) Petroff Mem Open 2000 (4.
20)) 11...Bg7 12.Qd2 Be6 13.0-0
0-0 14.f4 Nge7 Cozio-3...Nge7 4. Nc3
d6 #2]

9...g6 10.Qg5 0.10/20

[10.Bd2± 0.64/20]

10...h6 11.Qg3 Be6 12.0-0 Ne7
13.Be3 Bg7 Against Bd4 **14.Rad1↑**
Black is under pressure. **14...Qd7**
15.Bd4 Bxd4 16.Rxd4 0-0-0 17.b4

Qc6 1.87/20

[17...Kb8± 1.08/19 might work better.]

18.Rfd1 1.25/19

[18.Rb1+- 1.87/20]

18...g5 1.81/18

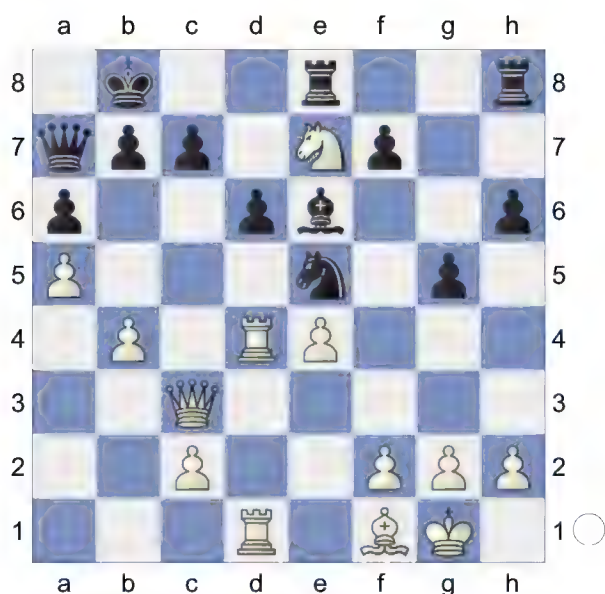
[18...Qb6± 1.25/19]

19.a4+- Ng6 2.37/22

[19...Qb6 1.80/20 was necessary.]

20.Bf1 Ne5 21.Qe3 Qb6 22.a5 Qa7

23.Nd5 Kb8 24.Qc3 Rc8 25.Ne7 Rce8



26.Rxd6? -0.37/22 cxd6 27.Rxd6 Ng4

[27...Rxe7? 28.Qxe5 Rc8 29.Rxa6+ (29.Rxe6+ Rec7+-) 29...Rec7 30.Rxa7 Kxa7 31.Bd3+-]

28.Rb6 Ka8! 29.Bxa6! Decoy

29...Rxe7 30.Qxh8+ Qb8 Really sharp!

31.Qxb8+ Kxb8 32.Be2 Nf6 33.a6 -0.96/27

[33.Bd3= -0.06/22]

33...Nxe4 34.Bf3 Bd5 -0.54/25

[34...Rd7 35.h4 Nd6 36.hxg5 hxg5 37.axb7 Nxb7]

35.h4 f5 -0.01/22

[35...gxh4 36.Rxh6 bxa6 37.Rxh4=]

[35...Nc3 36.Bxd5 Nxd5 threatening ...Bxf3. 36.Bxd5 Nxd5

37.Rxh6 gxh4 (37...Nxb4 38.Rh8+ Ka7 39.axb7=) 38.Rh8+ Ka7

39.axb7 Rxb7 (39...Kxb7 40.Rxh4 Rc7 41.Rh5 42.Rxb4 41.Rc4 42.Rxb4)

36.Rxh6= g4 37.Be2 -4.11/22

[37.Bxe4= 0.00/25 and White stays safe. Bxe4 (37...Rxe4 38.h5±)

38.h5]



37...Nd2!+- 38.Bd3 f4 39.Kh2

(Diagram)

Re1!

[Not 39...bxa6 40.Rb6+ Kc7 41.Rf6=]

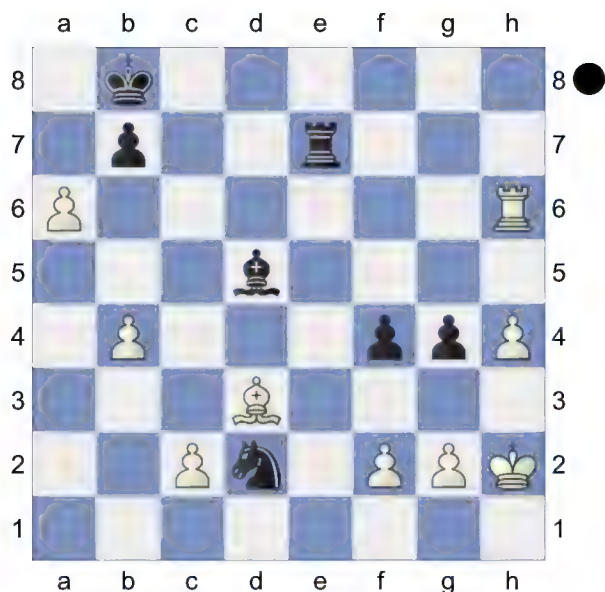
40.Rh8+ -7.08/21

[40.a7+ -4.02/21 Kxa7 41.b5 Nf1+ 42.Bxf1 Rxf1 43.Rd6]

40...Ka7 (-> ...Nf3+!) 41.axb7 Kxb7

Never resign too early!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/ Black=0.15 (very precise)



[Less strong is 41...Bxb7 42.Rh7] 0-1

□ **Ragger, Markus**
 ■ **Kadric, Denis**
 (ol) 138/45 Batumi
 [Perunovic, Milos, MH]

B06
2686
2543
 2018

B06: Modern Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Be3

[5.h3 - 103/64]

5...Bg7 6.Qd2 0-0 7.d5 Nb8 8.Bh6
 White is better.

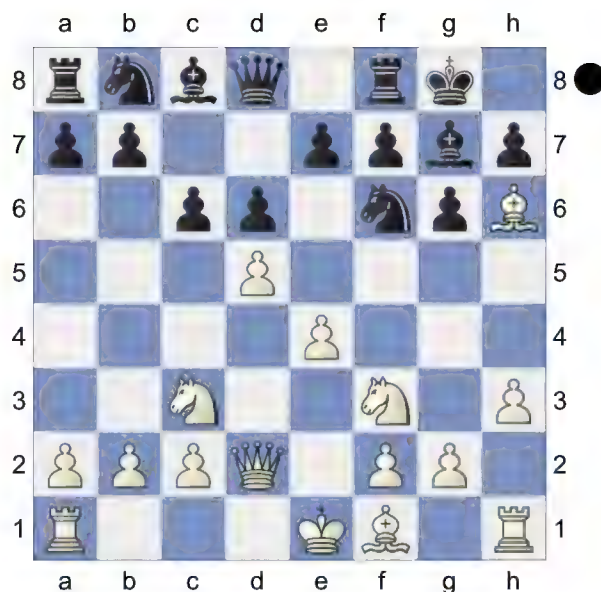
[8.h3 c6 9.g4 b5 10.a3 Qa5 11.Rb1 b4 12.axb4 Qxb4 13.Bd3 cxd5 14.g5 Nh5 15.Nxd5 Qb7 16.Qb4 Qxb4+ 17.Nxb4 Bacrot, E (2714)-Hera, I (2620) 137/(40) France 2018]

8...c6

[8...e5 - 137/40]

9.h3 Diagram

(Diagram)



9...a6N 1.06/21

[9...Bxh6? 1.71/18 9...b5 0.63 - 138/ (45) 10.Qxh6 Qb6 11.0-0-0 Qxf2 12.Bd3 Nbd7 13.Rdf1 Qc5 14.Ng5 Veselsky (2572)-Csanadi (2432) Yerevan (ol) 68/128 1996]

[9...b5± 0.64/20 10.a3 Qb6 11.Be2 a6 12.g4 b4 13.axb4 Qxb4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Ra4 Qxb2 16.0-0 Qb6 17.Rb1 Qc7 18.g5 Nfd7 19.dxc6 Nxc6 20.Nd5 Qd8 21.Qc3+ Nce5 22.Rc4 Part Chapter-Games Part 2 Chapter 3]

10.g4 White is more active. **10...Bxh6?** 1.65/22

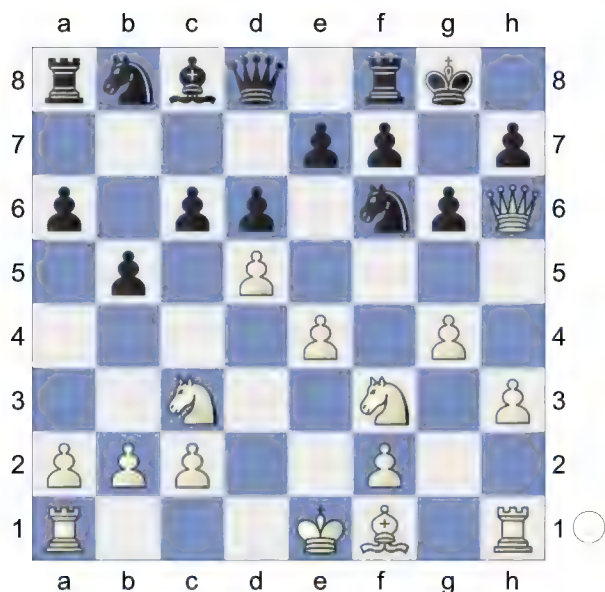
[10...cxd5 1.15/25 10...b5 0.70 11.exd5 b5 12.Bxg7! Kxg7 13.0-0-0 b4 14.Ne2! a5 1.42/19 (Better is 14...Qa5 0.85/20) 15.Nf4±]

[10...b5 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.a3 h6!? (12...c5 13.g5 Nh5 14.Be2 Strongly threatening Nh4. e5 15.dxe6 fxe6 16.Rd1±) 13.0-0-0 c5 14.e5 dxe5 15.Nxe5±]

[10...b5± 1.07/22]

11.Qxh6+- b5 2.04/19 Diagram

[11...e5± 1.57/19]

**12.Ng5! e5**

[12...b4? 5.59/18 12...e5 1.64 13.e5 dxe5 14.Nce4 White threatens Nxf6+ and mate. Nbd7 15.dxc6+-]

13.dxc6

[13.h4 Bxg4 3.34/24 (13...Bb7 2.05/20 14.dxc6 Bxc6) 14.h5]

13...Be6 3.03/18 Wards off Nd5

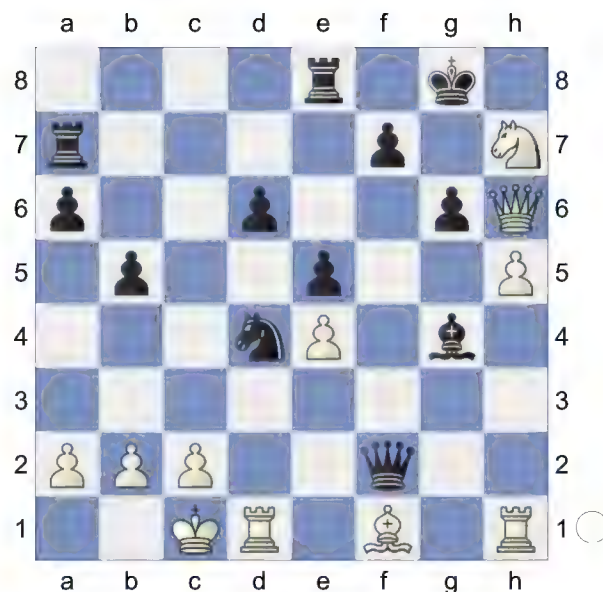
[13...Nxc6 14.Nd5 White wants to mate with Nxf6+. Re8 15.0-0-0 Black must now prevent h4. (15.Nxf6+?! 0.16/21 15.h4 1.72 Qxf6 16.Qxh7+ Kf8) 15...Nd4 1.80/18 (15...Be6± 1.32/20 was necessary.) 16.h4+- Bxg4 17.h5 Ra7 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6 19.Nxh7

A) 19...Qg7 2.21/19 19...Qxf2 1.55 20.Qg5 Bxd1 3.04/27 (20...Qxh7 2.02/20 21.Qxg4 Qh6+ 22.f4 Kf8) 21.Nf6+- Kf8 ...Bxh5 is the strong threat. 22.h6 Qh8 Threatens to win with ...Ne6. 23.Nxe8 Kxe8 24.Kxd1+-;

B) 19...Qxf2

(Diagram)

20.Bd3! Bxd1 21.Rf1 Qh4



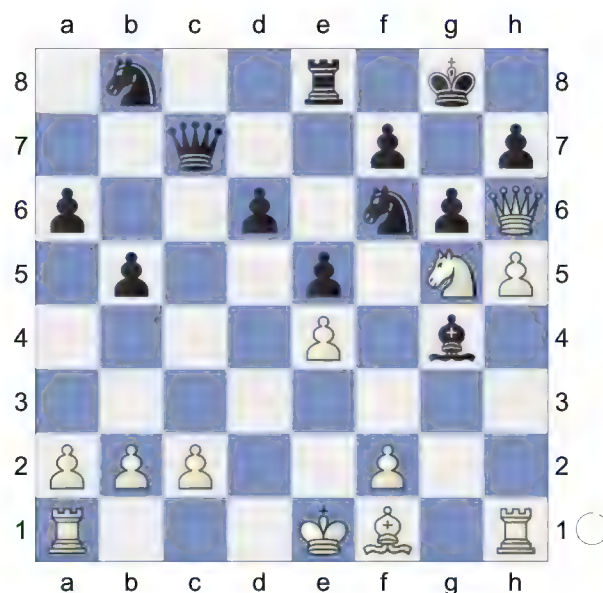
...Bf3 would now be deadly.
22.Nf6+ Qxf6 23.Rxf6 Bxh5
24.Rxd6+-]

[13...Nxc6± 1.52/22 14.Nd5 Re8]

14.h4 Ra7 15.h5 Bxg4? 6.03/19

[15...Re8 3.40/17 16.hxg6 Deflection fxg6 17.Nxe6 Rxe6]

16.Nd5 Threatening mate with Nxf6+. White is clearly winning. **16...Re8 17.c7 Rxc7 18.Nxc7 Qxc7** Diagram

**19.Nxh7! Remove Defender 19...Qe7**

[19...Nxh7 20.hxg6 fxg6
21.Qxg6+-]

20.hxg6 White took control after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.64

1-0

C28
 Kosteniuk,Alexandra **2526**
 Vaishali,Ramesh Babu **2467**

Speed Chess (Women) blitz (1.18)

[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6

1.e4 Nc6 2.Bc4 e5 3.d3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Na5N

[4...Bc5 5.f4 (5.Be3 Bb6 6.Bxb6 axb6 7.Nge2 d6 8.Qd2 Ne7 9.f4 Bd7 10.0-0 c5 11.fxe5 dxe5 12.Qg5 Ng6 13.Nd5 b5 14.Bb3 Rc8 15.c3 c4 16.dxc4 bxc4 17.Bc2 Nxd5 18.Qxd8+ Rxd8 19.exd5 Bg4 1-0 (39) 8... ♔a5-8. ♕d3 ♕b7 9.a3 b4 64604 USSR 21/513 1976 (7)) 5...d6 6.Nf3 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.Na4 Bb6 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bd2 Qd6 13.Bc3 Nd7 14.a3 Nd4 15.Qd2 Nxf3+ 16.Rxf3 Rxf3 17.gxf3 Rf8 18.Rf1 c5 19.Qg5 ½-½ (53) g6!? Ideas (2475)-7. 0-0 e6 8. ♕g5 55055 (2252) Jermuk 107/162 2009 (1)]

[4...Bb4 5.Nge2 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Bxc3 8.Nxc3 Be6 9.Nxd5 Bxd5 10.Qg4 Qd6 11.Qxg7 0-0-0 12.Qh6 Rhg8 13.Bxd5 Warm Up-Igor Saric Vs Ioannis Papada]

5.Nge2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Ng3 d6 8.a4 Nxc4 9.dxc4 Be6 10.b3 c6 11.Qf3 Qc7 12.h3 Rad8 13.Rd1 White is slightly better. **13...Qc8 14.Bb2 0.22/22**

[14.a5± 0.59/22]

14...h6 15.Rd2 Nh7 16.Rad1 Ng5

17.Qe2 g6 18.Rd3 -0.25/21

[18.Ba3± 0.48/19]

18...h5 0.31/19

[18...Bxh3!= -0.25/21 19.gxh3 Nxh3+ 20.Kh1 Nf4]

19.Bc1± Nh7 1.37/17

[19...h4= 0.28/20 20.Nf1 Qc7]

20.Bh6!± Rfe8 2.25/21

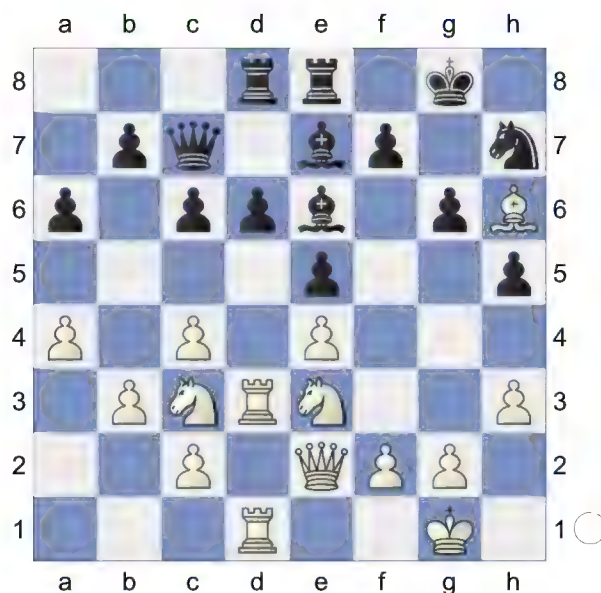
[20...h4± 1.35/19 keeps fighting.]

21.Nf1? 0.42/21

[21.Nxh5!+- 2.25/21 Hoping for Ng7. Kh8 (21...gxh5? is the wrong capture. 22.Rg3+-) 22.Ng7]

21...Qc7± 22.Ne3 Threatens to win with **Nf5! 22...a6 1.55/18**

[Better is 22...h4± 0.34/20]



23.Qf3 0.10/22

[23.Nf5!± 1.55/18]

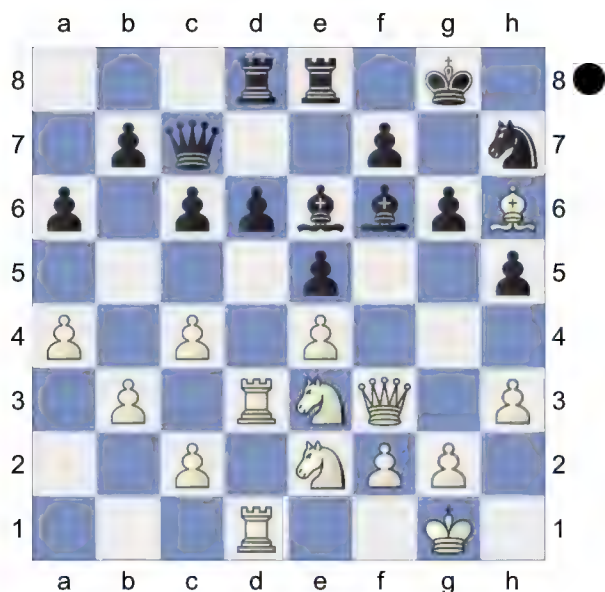
23...Bf6 24.Ne2? -1.33/22

[24.Qe2± 0.34/22 keeps the upper hand.]

(Diagram)

24...Bg7? 0.88/20

[24...Bg5!± -1.33/22 25.Bxg5 Nxg5]



25.Bxg7± Kxg7 26.Qg3 Dodges Ng5

26...Qe7 1.38/20

[26...Nf6 0.73/21]

27.Nf5+ -0.06/18

[White should play 27.Rxd6!± 1.38/20
f6 28.Rxd8 Rxd8 29.Rxd8 Qxd8
30.Nf1]

27...Bxf5= 28.exf5 Qf6 0.87/21

[28...h4= 0.00/21 keeps the balance.
29.Qg4 Qf6]

29.fxg6± fxg6 30.Nc3 Ng5 Prevents
Ne4. **31.h4 Nf7 32.Ne4**

[32.Rf3 with more complications. Qe6
33.Ne4 Re7 34.a5]

32...Qe6 33.Qe3↑ Keeping Black busy.
White has more active pieces.

[33.Rf3 is more complex. d5 34.Nf6
Rh8 35.cxd5 cxd5 36.Re1]

33...Re7 34.Qd2 0.13/20

[34.a5± 0.99/21]

34...Kh7? 2.54/20 Loses the game.

[34...Qg4= 0.13/20 and Black is okay.
35.Nxd6 Rxd6 36.Rxd6 Nxd6
37.Qxd6 Qxh4]

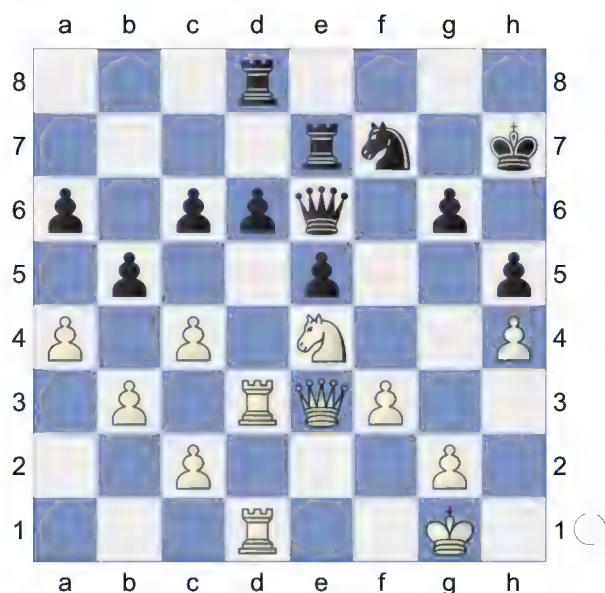
35.f3 b6? 3.54/22

[35...Kg7 1.63/23 36.Nxd6 Qf6
37.Nxf7 Rxd3 38.Qxd3 Kxf7]

36.Qe3+-

[Don't play 36.Nxd6 Nxd6 37.Rxd6
Rxd6 38.Qxd6 e4 39.Qxe6 Rxe6+-]

36...b5



37.Rxd6!! Rxd6 38.Rxd6 Qxd6
6.04/18

[38...Qc8 3.85/18 39.c5 bxa4
40.bxa4 Kg7]

39.Nxd6 White is clearly winning.

39...Nxd6 40.cxb5 axb5 KQ-KRN

41.Qc5 Re6 42.Qxc6 bxa4 43.Qd7+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.51/
Black=0.70

1-0

C70

□ **Anand,Viswanathan**

2817

■ **Giri,Anish**

2690

Amber-rapid 20th (11)

24.03.2011

[Moradiabadi,E. Kitty Kat]

C70: Ruy Lopez: 3...a6 4 Ba4,
Norwegian and Delayed Schliemann

Chapter **1.e4** Moradiabadi Moradiabadi

Moradiabadi Moradiabadi: 'Moradiabadi,

E' **1...Nc6**

[1...e5 2.Nf3]

2.Nf3 e5

[2...d6]
3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Na5 6.0-0 d6 7.d4 Nxb3 8.axb3 f6 9.Nc3!?
 An odd choice by Anand. It is clear that the World Champion had something in mind. **9...Bb7 10.Nh4 Ne7 11.dxe5 dxe5**

[11...fxe5 12.f4]
12.Qf3 White is slightly better. **12...Qd7 13.Rd1 Qe6 14.Nd5**

[14.Be3
A) 14...h5 15.h3 **0.06/19**
 Inhibits Qg4. (15.Bc5± **0.54/24**)
 15...g5;
B) 14...h5± 0.35/22;
C) 14...g5? 3.79/21 15.Nxb5!+-
 axb5 16.Qh5+ Qf7 17.Rxa8+
 Bxa8 18.Rd8+! Kxd8 19.Qxf7
 gxh4 20.Qxf6 Rg8 21.f3 h3 22.g3
 Ke8 23.Qxe5 Rg6 24.Qxb5+ Bc6
 25.Qb8+ Kf7 26.Qxc7 Rf6 27.Bg5
 Re6 28.b4 Kg8 29.Qb8 Ng6
 30.Kf2 Ne5 31.b5 Be8 32.Be3
 Bd6 33.Qc8 Kf7 34.b6 Rf6
 35.Bf4 Bd7 36.b7 Be6 37.Bxe5
 Bxe5 38.b8Q Bxc8 39.Qxe5]

14...Nxd5

[14...0-0-0 15.c4]
15.exd5 Qf7 Nothing new for Giri so far. He had examined the same position in an encounter not long time before this game **16.c4**

[16.Nf5 **-0.02/18** 16.c4 0.43 g6
 17.Nh6 Bxh6! 18.Bxh6 g5
 (18...0-0-0 **1.33/25** 18...g5 -0.12
 19.c4 Rd7) 19.h4 **-0.96/23** (19.Qh3
-0.85/22 19.c4 0.00 Rg8; 19.c4=
-0.10/20) 19...gxh4]
 [16.Be3 Be7 **1.08/19** (16...g6;
 16...Rd8± **0.33/23**) 17.Nf5± Rd8]

16...Be7 1.22/19

[16...g6 17.Qe2 Bg7 18.f4! 0-0-0
1.69/20 (18...0-0± **0.60/20**) 19.fxe5+-

fxe5 20.Nf3 h6 **Dodges Ng5 21.Be3**]
 [16...g6± **0.39/25**]

17.Nf5± Rd8

[17...0-0? **3.22/18** 17...Rd8 1.03
 18.Bh6!]

18.Be3!N White has more active pieces. A good novelty by Anand. It creates the greatest amount of difficulty for Black. Nevertheless, Black should be able to hold. The other continuations have not created any difficulties for Black.
18...g6? 2.80/22 Giri blunders away a pawn instantly.

[18...Bc8 19.c5 **0.61/19** (19.Nxe7±
1.03/23 Qxe7 20.Qh5+ Qf7
 21.Qxf7+ Kxf7 22.c5) 19...Bxf5±
 20.Qxf5 Rxd5? **4.00/22** (20...0-0;
 20...0-0± **0.55/21**) 21.Qc8+]

[18...0-0? **2.97/21** 18...Bf8 1.11
 19.Bh6]

[18...Bc8± **0.88/22**]

19.Nh6

[19.Nxe7 Qxe7]

19...Qg7N 20.Qg3 1.11/19

[20.cxb5 f5 21.bxa6 Ba8 22.Qh3
 f4? **3.89/20** (22...Rxd5 **1.99/17**
 23.Rxd5 Bxd5) 23.Bd2+- Bg5
 ½-½ (23) Dominguez Perez,L (2712)-
 Kramnik,V (2788)/Wijk aan Zee 2010/
 CBM 135 24.Ng4 h5 **4.91/21**
 (24...0-0 **3.14/17** 25.Bc3 Rfe8)
 25.Nxe5]

[20.cxb5+- **2.33/21** is more deadly. f5
 21.bxa6]

20...Bc8 1.80/21

[20...Bf8± **1.11/19** is a better
 defense.]

21.h4+- Bd6

[21...f5 **2.67/20** 21...Rf8 1.68
 22.Bg5]

22.Qf3!

[22.c5 **1.30/21** 22.Qf3 2.23 Bxc5]
 [22.Rac1 e4 23.Bf4 Qxh6 24.Bxh6

Bxg3 ½-½ (31) Jovanovic,Z (2526)-
Giri,A (2624)/Rijeka 2010/CBM 136
25.fxg3]

22...Be7? 4.51/22

[22...Rf8? 4.23/21 22...f5 2.07 23.c5
Be7 24.d6]

[22...Bb7 2.26/21 23.Qe2 (23.c5
Be7±) 23...Bc8]

23.Rac1 2.58/19

[23.d6

A) 23...Bxd6 24.c5 Be7 7.02/25

(24...e4 4.12/19 25.Qxe4+ Qe7
26.Qc6+ Bd7 27.cxd6 Bxc6
28.dxe7 Rxd1+ 29.Rxd1 Kxe7)
25.Qc6+- Bd7 26.Qxc7;

B) 23...cxd6 24.cxb5 axb5 25.Bb6
Qxh6 26.Bxd8 Bxd8 27.Ra8]

[23.d6 4.51/22 cxd6 24.cxb5]

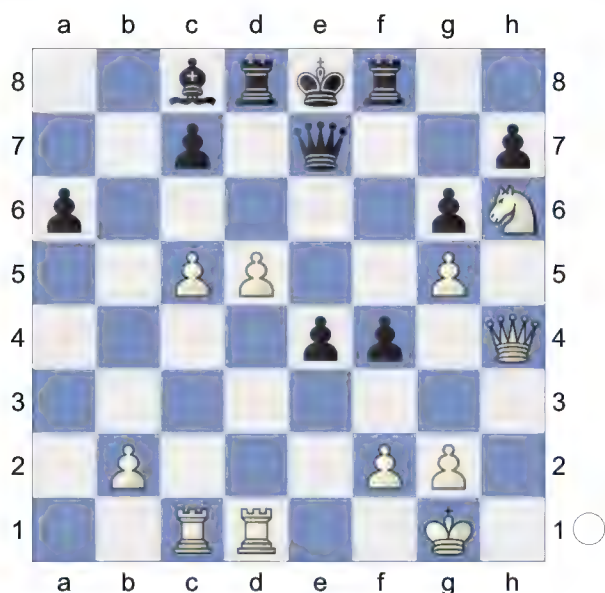
23...bxc4? The last and final mistake.

23...♖c8 was mandatory, the rest is just
a piece of cake for Anand.

24.bxc4 Rf8? 3.99/24

[24...g5 2.40/22]

25.c5 f5 26.Bg5 Bxg5 27.hxg5 Qe7
28.Qg3 f4 29.Qh4 e4



30.d6 2.16/23 Qe5

[30...cxd6!? 5.75/19 30...Qe5 2.46
31.cxd6 Qe6 (31...Qe5 32.Rxc8

Black is just safe) 32.Rc7 e3
(32...Bd7 33.Ng4) 33.Ng4 e2



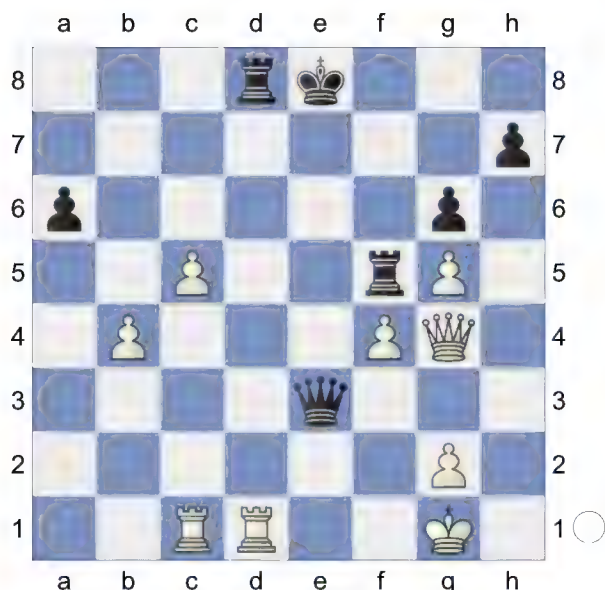
34.Re1! Black must now prevent Nf6+.
Rxd6 35.Rxe2 Qxe2 36.Rxc8+ Rd8
37.Nf6+ Rxf6 38.Rxd8+ Kxd8
39.gxf6 And now f7+ would win. Ke8
5.22/21 (24...Qd1+ 3.43/21 40.Kh2
Qh5 41.Qxh5 gxf6) 40.Qxh7
and Black is far from any danger.]

31.dxc7 Rxd1+

[31...Qxc7 32.Ng4 Bxg4 33.Qxg4
Rf5 34.b4 Strongly threatening Qe2.
e3 35.fxe3 Qe5 Against e4 36.exf4
0.57/21 (36.e4± 1.51/21 Rxd1+
37.Rxd1 Qxe4 38.Qh4 Qxb4
39.Qxh7 Qxc5+ 40.Kh2) 36...Qe3+!±

(Diagram)

37.Kh2! Re1 is the strong threat.
Qxf4+ 38.Qxf4 Rxf4 39.Re1+ Kf7
40.Ra1 0.15/23 (40.Rf1± 0.53/19
is superior. Rxf1 41.Rxf1+ Ke7
42.Re1+ Kf7 43.Re4) 40...Re8=
0.66/22 Even though this exciting line
is not all that forced, however it
reveals the strength behind Anand's
novelty and the difficulties Black



might face in this line. (40...Rh4+= 0.15/23 41.Kg1 Rxb4) 41.Rec1?? 0.10/22 (41.Rf1!± 0.66/22 Ree4 42.Rfd1 Rxb4 43.Rd7+ Ke6 44.Rxh7) 41...Rxb4= 42.Rxa6?? Rf6+ would now be deadly. Rg4 43.c6 Rc8+- 4.17/21 (43...Re2!= 0.15/20) 44.Ra7+??+- Ke6 45.Rxh7 Rxc5+-]

32.Rxd1 e3? 9.84/21

[32...Qxc7 33.Ng4 Bxg4 34.Qxg4 Rf5 35.b4 (35.Qe2 0.36/21 35.b4 1.83)]

[32...Qxc7 3.04/18 33.Ng4 Bxg4 34.Qxg4 Rf5]

33.Rd8+ Ke7 34.Ng8+ Discovered Attack 34...Rxg8 35.Rxg8 Be6 36.c8Q 12.28/17

[36.Qxh7+ Bf7 37.Re8+ Kxe8!? 38.c8Q+ Ke7! 39.Qb7+ Kd8 40.Qh8+]

[36.Qxh7+ #27/16 Bf7 37.Re8+ Decoy, Promotion (37.c8R exf2+ 38.Kh2 f3+ 39.Kh3 Qf5+ 40.Kg3 f1N+ 41.Kf2 Qc2+ 42.Kxf3 Qf5+ 43.Ke2 Ng3+ 44.Ke3 Qe4+ 45.Kd2 Qd4+ 46.Kc2 Qe4+ 47.Kc3 Qe3+ 48.Kc2 Qf2+ 49.Kc3 Qe3+ 50.Kc2

Qe4+ 51.Kc1 Qc4+ 52.Kd2 Qd5+ 53.Ke1 Qe4+ 54.Kd2 Qd5+ 55.Ke1 Qe5+ 56.Kd2 Qf4+ 57.Kd3 Qf1+ 58.Kc2 Qe2+ 59.Kc1 Qc4+ 60.Kd2 Qd4+ 61.Kc1 Qc4+=; 37.c8N+ Ke6+-; 37.c8Q exf2+ 38.Kh2 f1N+ 39.Kh1 Ng3+ 40.Kh2 Nf1+ 41.Kg1 Qe3+ 42.Kh1 Ng3+ 43.Kh2 Nf1+ 44.Kh1 Ng3+ 45.Kh2 Nf1+ 46.Kh1=) 37...Kxe8 38.c8Q+ (38.c8R+ Ke7=) 38...Ke7 39.Qb7+ Skewer (39.Qxa6 e2+-) 39...Kd8 40.Qa8+ (40.Qhxf7 exf2+ 41.Kxf2 Qe3+ 42.Kf1 Qd3+ 43.Ke1 Qe3+ 44.Kd1 Qd3+ 45.Kc1 Qf1+ 46.Kc2 Qe2+ 47.Kb3 Qd1+ 48.Ka3 Qa1+ 49.Qa2 Qxa2+ 50.Kxa2 f3) 40...Ke7 41.Qa7+ Skewer (41.Qxa6 e2+-) 41...Kd8 42.c6 (42.Qhxf7 exf2+ 43.Kxf2 Qe3+ 44.Kf1 Qc1+ 45.Ke2 Qe3+ 46.Kd1 Qd3+ 47.Kc1 Qf1+ 48.Kd2 Qf2+ 49.Kd3 Qe3+ 50.Kc4 Qe2+ 51.Kd5 Qd3+ 52.Kc6 Qb5+ 53.Kd6 Qd3+ 54.Qd5 Qxd5+ 55.Kxd5 f3 56.Kd6 f3g2 57.Qd7#)]

36...exf2+ 37.Qxf2 Bxc8 38.Rxc8

Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.61

1-0

B00
 2518
 2483

EU-ch Blitz Katowice (15) 16.12.2022
 [Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 f6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Bb5 fxe5 6.dxe5 e6 7.c4N -0.36/20

[7.Nbd2± 0.36/19]

[7.0-0 Bc5 8.Nbd2 Nge7 9.h3 Bh5

10.Nb3 Bb6 11.Qd3 0-0
Nimzowitsch Defence-3.e5 f6 4.Nf3
2024]

7...Bb4+ 0.00/22

[7...Nge7 ̄ -0.36/20 8.0-0 a6
9.Bxc6+ Nxc6]

8.Nc3 -0.36/19

[8.Bd2= 0.00/22 deserves
consideration. Bxd2+ 9.Nbxd2]

8...Nge7 0.07/23

[8...dxc4 ̄ -0.36/19
is more appropriate. 9.0-0 Qxd1
10.Rxd1 Nge7]

9.cxd5 -0.87/20

[9.h3= 0.07/23 Bh5 10.0-0]

9...Qxd5 ̄ 10.Qxd5 Nxd5 -0.51/22

[10...exd5! ̄]

[10...exd5 ̄ -1.07/25 11.Nd4 0-0
12.Nxc6 bxc6]

11.Nd4 -1.83/25 Loses the game.

[11.Bd2 ̄ -0.51/22]

11...Nxc3 -1.33/20

[11...Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Nxc3 13.Bxc6+
bxc6 14.Bd2±]

[11...0-0-0+ -1.83/25 12.Nxc6 Nxc3
(12...bxc6 13.Ba6+ Kd7 14.h3=)]

12.Nxc6 bxc6

[12...Nxb5+ 13.Nxb4 c5 14.Nc2 ̄]

13.Bxc6+ Kf7 ...Rad8! is the strong
threat. 14.a3 -2.01/22

[14.Bd2 ̄ -1.41/23 is a better defense.
Nd5 15.Bxb4 Nxb4 16.Bxa8 Rxa8
17.f3 Nc2+ 18.Kd2 Nxa1 19.fxg4]

14...Rad8!-+ 15.Bd2

[15.axb4? Rd1#]

(Diagram)

15...Nb1! 16.axb4 Nxd2→ White is in
trouble. 17.f3 -2.29/21

[17.Rxa7 -1.90/22 was necessary.
Rh8 18.Rxc7+ Kg8 19.h3]



17...Bf5! 18.Rxa7 h5 19.Rxc7+ Kg6
20.b5 Nc4 21.0-0 Nxe5 22.Re1 Nxc6
23.bxc6 Rb8 24.Re2 -3.92/21

[Δ24.Rd7 -2.70/23 Rhc8
(24...Rxb2? 25.h3-+) 25.c7 Rxb2
26.h3]

24...Rhc8 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 Endgame.
KRB-KR 26.g4 hxg4 27.fxg4 Bxg4
28.Rc2 Bf3 -2.39/18

[Δ28...Bd1 -4.47/22 29.Rc3 Ba4]

29.c7 Be4 30.Rc5 -5.53/22

[30.Rc3 -2.32/24 is more resistant.]

30...Kf6 Black is clearly winning. **31.b4 Ke7 32.b5 Kd6!** Inhibits b6. **33.Rc4 Bd5**

[Not 33...Rxc7 34.Rxe4 Rb7 35.Rg4=]

34.b6 Bxc4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.81/ Black=0.20 (precise)

0-1

☐ Rublevsky,Sergei

B00
2637

■ Usmanov,Vasily

2447

RUS-chT Blitz (11.4)

14.10.2021

[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

Mikhaletz,L; Okhotnik,V: 'Inf 75/(76)'

CHAPTER 1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.Be3 e6 6.h3 Bh5 7.d5 exd5 8.exd5 Ne5

[8...Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Ne5 10.Qe2 a6 11.f4 Ned7 12.g4 Qe7 13.0-0-0 0-0-0 14.Re1 Re8 15.Bg2 g6 16.Qf2 Bg7 17.a4 Qd8 18.a5 Rhf8 19.Bd2 Rxe1+ 20.Rxe1 Re8 21.Bf3 Rxe1+ 22.Qxe1 Ng8 23.g5 (40) Shchekachev,A (2512)-Okhotnik, V (2438) 75/(76) Linares 1999]

9.g4 Nxf3+ 2.62/17

[♠9...Bg6 1.85/21 10.Nd2 (10.Bb5+ Ned7 11.Qe2 Be7 12.h4 h5 13.g5 Ng4 14.0-0-0 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 0-0 16.Rhe1 Re8 17.Nd4 Chapter 7 2012) 10...h5]

10.Qxf3+- Bg6 11.Bb5+N 1.49/18

[11.h4+- 2.62/20]

[11.0-0-0 Be7 12.Qg2 Nd7 13.f4 h6 14.Bd4 0-0 15.h4 Bxh4 16.Qh2 Bf6 17.g5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Qxg5+ 19.Kb1 Ne5 20.Bd3 Nf3 21.Qf2 Nxd4

22.Qxd4 Bxd3 23.Qxd3 f5 24.Ne2 f4 25.Nd4 Rf7 (33) The Rest: Annotated games-1...Nc6: Georg Mohr vs. Mitja]

11...Nd7± White is clearly better.

12.0-0-0 1.21/19 Black is weak on the light squares

[White should play 12.Bd4+- 1.71/21]

12...a6 13.Bxd7+ Qxd7 14.Bg5 Be7 1.35/21

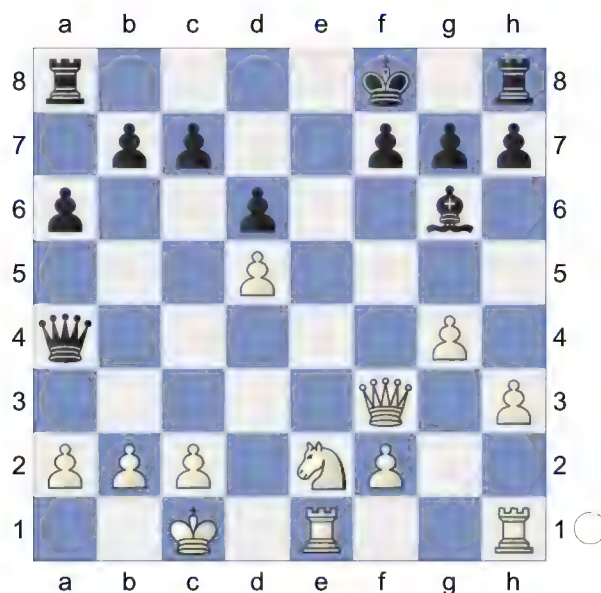
[♠14...f6 0.72/25 15.Rde1+ Be7]

15.Bxe7! Kxe7 16.Rde1+ Kf8 17.Ne2 0.56/22

[17.Re3± 0.93/23]

17...Qa4 1.14/22

[17...Re8!± 0.56/22 18.Ng3 f6]



18.Qc3! Qxa2 1.87/20

[18...c6± 1.02/22 keeps fighting.]

(Diagram)

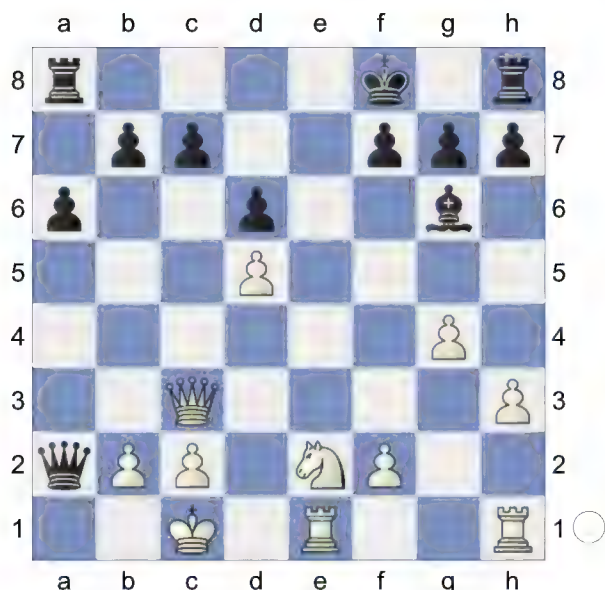
19.Nd4? 0.25/21

[19.f4!+- 1.87/20]

19...Qxd5= 20.Qxc7 -0.22/24

[20.f4!± 0.38/22 c5 21.Nf3]

20...Kg8



[Worse is 20...Qxd4 21.Qe7+ Kg8 22.Qe8+ Rxe8 23.Rxe8#]

21.Nf5 Deflection **21...Bxf5** **22.gxf5** **Qxf5** Threatens to win with ...Rc8.

23.Qxb7 Rc8 **24.Qe4** Active counter play! **24...Qxe4**

[Not 24...Qxf2 25.Qe8+ Rxe8 26.Rxe8#]

[24...Qb5 looks sharper. 25.Rd1 Qc6 26.Rhe1 h5]

25.Rxe4 Endgame. KRR-KRR **25...g6** **26.Rd1 Rc6** **27.Red4 Kg7** **28.Rxd6 Rhc8** **29.Rxc6 Rxc6** KR-KR **30.Rd7 -0.35/24**

[30.Rd3= 0.01/22 feels stronger.]

30...h5 **31.Kd2** The position is equal. **31...Rf6** **32.Ke3 Re6+** **33.Kf3 g5** **34.c4 Rb6** **35.Rd2 Rb3+** **36.Kg2 Kf8** **37.c5 Ke7** **38.c6** And now c7 would win. **38...Rb6** **39.Rd5**

[39.c7!? Rc6 40.Rd5=]

39...Rxb2 **40.Rxg5**

[40.c7!? Rc2 41.Rxg5=]

40...Rc2 **41.Rxh5 Rxc6** **42.h4 Kf8** **43.Ra5 Kg7** **44.Kg3 Rb6** **45.Kg4 Rb4+** **46.f4 Rb6** **47.h5 Kh7** **48.Rc5 Kg7** **49.Rc7 a5** **50.Ra7 Rb5** **51.f5 Rb1** **52.Rxa5 Rg1+** **53.Kf4 Rf1+**

54.Ke5 Re1+ **55.Kd6 Kf6** **56.Kd7 Rh1** **57.h6 Rxh6** **58.Ra6+ Kg5** **59.Rxh6 Kxh6** **60.Ke8 Kg5 (-> ...f6)** **61.Kxf7** White wants to mate with Ke6. **61...Kxf5** White really could win this.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise)
1/2-1/2

B00
 Fernandez, Daniel **2485**
 Howell, David **2687**
 GBR-ch 105th (8) 04.08.2018
[Fernandez, D, Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 **2.d4 d5** **3.e5 Bf5!?** Played quickly, and the idea was probably to transpose to a Panov after 4. d4 cxd4 5.exd4 6.c6 6...c3.

4.c3 Played after a great many minutes thought. I remember it amused me during the game that at many points I was actually behind David on the clock, and I then wondered how common this could possibly be. The following round, Luke McShane went even further behind David on the clock, proving my suspicions unfounded. **4...e6** **5.Be2 f6** **6.f4** The 'backup' idea that I had in mind when playing my 4th move. **6...g5** **7.Bh5+ Kd7!** **8.fxg5** White is slightly better. **8...fxe5** **9.Nf3 h6** And now ... hxd5 would win. **10.c4N 0.28/22**

[10.g4]

[10.dxe5 hxd5 11.Bxd5 Be7 12.Bxe7 Ngxe7 (12...Qxe7 13.g4=)]
 [10.Nxe5+± 0.73/21 Nxe5 11.dxe5 hxd5 12.g4 Rxd5 13.gxf5]

A) 13...g4 **14.fxe6+ Kc8** **15.Bf4 Qh4+** **16.Ke2 g3** (16...Ne7

17.Rf1 Rf5 18.Bg3 Qh5 19.Nd2
b6 20.a4 a5 21.Qb3 Rxe5+
22.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 23.Kd1 Kb7
24.Kc2 Nimzowitch'S Defense-2...
d5) 17.Qxd5 Nf6 18.Qf3 g2
19.Rg1 Rf5 20.Bg3 Qh3 21.Qxg2
Qg4+ 22.Kd2 Bh6+ 23.Kc2 Rf3
24.Nd2 Qf5+ 25.Kb3 Qxe6+
26.Nc4 Ne4 27.Be1 Nc5+
28.Kc2 (37) Nimzowitch'S Defense-
2...d5;

B) 13...Rh4 Nimzowitch'S Defense-
2...d5]

10...Nge7? 0.68/18 A fairly significant error after half an hour of thought. Possibly, my opponent was convinced that on psychological grounds I would have to trade the queens, and simply wanted to do so in the best way he could.

[10...e4 1.59/19 10...dxc4 0.29
11.cxd5! exd5 12.Nh4]

[10...hxxg5 11.cxd5! Nxd4 (11...exd5
0.93/21 11...Nxd4 0.48could still be a
bit interesting. 12.0-0!) 12.dxe6+ Kc8
13.Nxd4 exd4 (13...Qxd4 14.Qxd4
exd4+ 15.0-0!) 14.0-0 Nh6 15.Nd2]

[10...Kc8 11.cxd5 Qxd5 12.Nc3
Qc4! was something I assessed as
lost, but in reality it may not be.
13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Bb4 15.Bd2
0.49/20 (White should play 15.Be2!±
0.85/23 Qh4+ 16.Kf1) 15...Ne7
0.98/21 (15...hxxg5± 0.49/20 16.Be2
Qc5) 16.gxxh6]

[10...dxc4 is a little unpleasant, but
White is not a million miles away from
setting up some kind of d3, e3
fortress. 11.Nxe5+= was almost
certainly best, trying to play either
e2 or f4. Nxe5 12.dxe5+ Bd3
13.Nc3 Kc8 14.Be2! (14.Bg4
-0.33/20 14.Be2 0.25 Kb8! 15.Bxe6

Qd4=)

A) 14...Qd4 1.33/20 14...hxxg5 0.37
15.Qa4! c6!± 2.31/22

has the potential to go even worse
for Black (15...Ne7± 1.36/18
was necessary.) 16.Bxd3!
The best way to pose questions
about the legitimacy of White's
quality-over-quantity approach to
development. Qxd3 17.Rf1;

B) 14...hxxg5 15.Bxd3 cxd3!
16.Qg4!! Wards off Qd4Black has
a more pleasant position, even if it
is still basically equal.;

C) 14...a5= was my first thought,
but I somehow couldn't
countenance leaving development
for even one more move, the
bishop pair notwithstanding. 15.Rf1!
It is not clear to me why I didn't
choose this move, which is easily
the most natural, and which might
even give White an edge. hxxg5
16.Bxd3 Now White gets all kinds of
useful developing moves for free,
like g3, e3 and e5. (16.Bxxg5±
Be7! 17.Bf4 Threatening Bxd3.
Bb4!) 16...cxd3 17.Qg4!
(17.Bxxg5!? Be7 18.Bf4±)
17...Ra6]

[10...hxxg5= 0.28/22 11.cxd5 Nxd4
(11...exd5 12.0-0±) 12.dxe6+ Kc8
13.Nxd4 exd4 (13...Qxd4 14.Qxd4
exd4 15.0-0±)]

11.g4±

[11.dxe5 Kc8=]

11...Bxb1

[11...Be4 12.Nc3! Nxe4 is the strong
threat. Bxf3 13.Qxf3 aiming for Qf6.
Nxd4 14.Qg2 Kc8 I assessed this
position type as lost, though maybe it
still forces Black to find an idea or two.
The general idea is that Black plays ...

g5-g4, then ... ♔f3-h1 to tie the White king to e3, then ... ♕h5, and finally ... g3. Matters become a little bit complicated if White takes on e5, but not too much. For instance: 15.0-0]

12.Rxb1 Returning the favour after half a minute of thought... **12...e4 13.Ne5+ Nxe5 14.dxe5 Bg7 1.79/20**

[14...Kc8 15.0-0 a5]

[14...a5± 1.19/21]

15.0-0!+- Threatens to win with cxd5. Not bad as such, but in practical terms this severely limits my winning potential. Now Black can relax and play for a win in his own time, which he proceeds to do. **15...c6**

[15...Bxe5 16.cxd5 0.89/21

(16.gxh6+- 1.69/19 c6 17.Be3)

16...Nxd5± (16...exd5 17.gxh6)

17.Qa4+]

16.Be3 Prevents Qb6. **16...hgx5 2.82/20** There was also ...b6.

[16...Bxe5± 1.47/17 17.gxh6 Qa5

18.cxd5 cxd5]

17.Bd4? 0.00/22

[17.cxd5! exd5 18.Bd4]

[17.cxd5!+- 2.82/20 cxd5 18.Qa4+ Kc8 19.Rbc1+ Kb8 20.Qd4]

17...Rf8! 0.63/20 Correctly noticing that he has to defend d8 with the rook and not just the bishop.

[17...Qb8 18.cxd5 Simply taking on g4 also wins. cxd5 19.Rf7! Bxe5 20.Bxe5 Qxe5 21.Qa4+ Kd8 Hoping for ...Rc8. 22.Qa3! Qc7]

[17...dxc4? 18.Bb6+ (18.Bxa7+ Nd5+-) 18...Nd5 19.Bxd8+-]

[17...Qb8= 0.00/22 18.cxd5 cxd5]

18.Rxf8!± Qxf8 2.12/26 This costs Black the game.

[18...Bxf8 19.Qb3! b6 20.Rf1 Rf7 would now be deadly. dxc4! 21.Qxc4 Nd5 Prevents Be3 22.Bg6!]

[Black should try 18...Bxf8± 0.63/23 19.Qb3 b6]

19.Qb3+- b6 White must now prevent ...

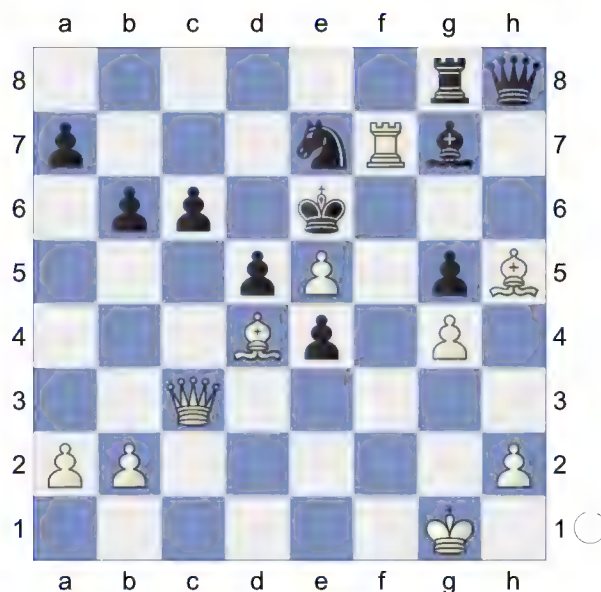
Qh8. 20.Rf1! Qh8 21.cxd5 exd5

[21...Bxe5 22.dxc6+! Kc7 23.Qxe6 Qd7+ would kill now. Bxd4+ 24.Kg2! Qd8 Wards off Qd7+ 25.Rf8! Inhibits Bc5.]

22.Qc3! Rg8 7.73/20

[♞22...Kc7 4.20/21 23.Rf7 Re8]

23.Rf7 Ke6



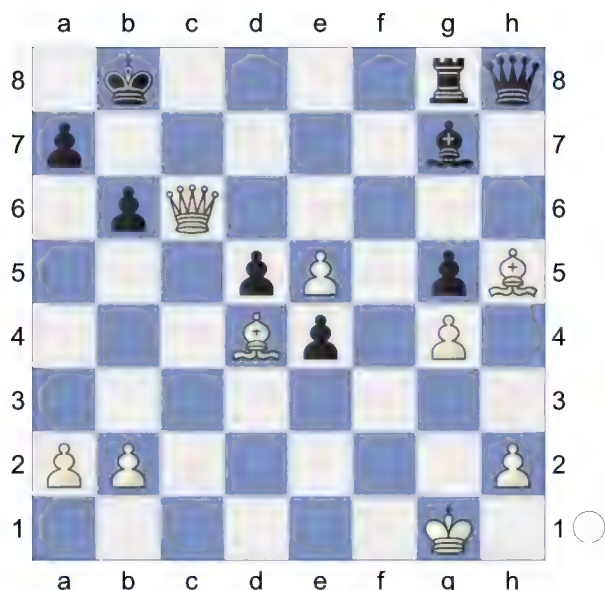
24.Rxe7+! 14.89/5 Kxe7 There follow some repetitions. **25.Qa3+ Kd8**

26.Qd6+

[26.Qxa7 Bxe5 27.Bxb6+ (27.Qxb6+? Bc7-+; 27.Bxe5 Qxe5 28.Qa8+ Kc7=) 27...Kc8 28.Qa8+ Kd7 29.Qb7+ Ke6 (29...Kd6 30.Bc7+ Kc5 31.Qb6+ Kc4 32.Qb3+ Kc5 33.Qb6+ Kc4 34.Qa6+ Kc5 35.Qb6+=) 30.Qf7+ (30.Qxc6+ Bd6=) 30...Kd6 31.Qc7+ (31.Bc7+ Kc5=) 31...Ke6 32.Qf7+ (32.Qxc6+ Bd6+) 32...Kd6 33.Qc7+ (33.Bc7+ Kc5=) 33...Ke6 34.Qf7+= (34.Qxc6+ Bd6+)]

26...Kc8 27.Qxc6+ Kb8

(Diagram)



28.Qd6+!

[28.Qxd5 Rd8 29.Qxe4 Qf8=]

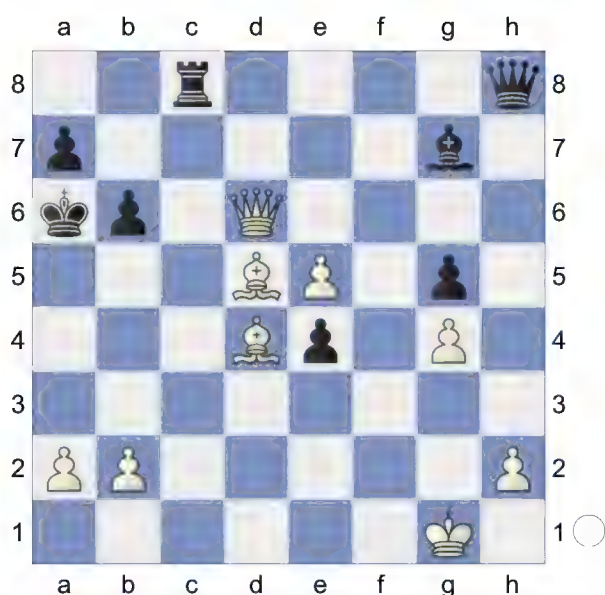
28...Kb7 29.Qxd5+ 7.47/20

[29.Bf7 #19/15 Bxe5 30.Bxe5
Qxe5 31.Qxe5 (31.Bxd5+ Ka6+-)
31...Rc8 32.Bxd5+ (32.Qxg5 Rc5+-)
32...Ka6 33.Qxe4 (33.Qxg5 Rc5+-)
33...Rc1+ 34.Kg2]

29...Kb8 30.Qd6+

[30.Qxe4 Rd8=]

30...Kb7 31.Bf7 Rc8 32.Bd5+ Ka6



33.Qa3+!

[33.Bxe4 Qh3 34.Kf2 Qxh2+ 35.Ke3

Qg3+ 36.Ke2 Qxg4+ 37.Bf3 Rc2+
38.Kd1 Qxf3+=]

33...Kb5 34.b3? Very close to losing by force.

[34.Qxa7 Rc1+ 35.Kg2 Rc2+ 36.Kf1
(36.Bf2 Rxf2+ 37.Kxf2 Qxh2+
38.Ke1 Qg1+ 39.Kd2 Qf2+ 40.Kd1
Qf1+ 41.Kd2 Qd3+ 42.Kc1 Qxd5#)
36...Rc1+ (36...Rxb2 37.Qxb6+ Ka4
38.Bc6#; 36...Qh3+ 37.Ke1=) 37.Kg2
Rc2+ 38.Kf1 (38.Bf2 Rxf2+ 39.Kxf2
Qxh2+ 40.Ke1 Qg1+ 41.Kd2 Qd4+
42.Ke1 Qe3+ 43.Kd1 Qg1+ 44.Kd2
Qf2+ 45.Kd1 Qf1+ 46.Kc2 Qd3+
47.Kc1 Bxe5#) 38...Rc1+ (38...Rxb2
39.Qxb6+ Ka4 40.Bc6#; 38...Qh3+
39.Ke1=) 39.Kg2=]

34...a5 35.Qa4+ 6.49/5

[35.Bb7 Now Howell doesn't miss his chance. There isn't any way to keep the pawn.]

[Not 35.Bxe4 Bxe5 36.Bd3+ Kc6
37.Be4+ Kd7 (37...Kb5 38.Bd3+
Kc6 39.Be4+ Kb5=) 38.Bf5+
(38.Bxb6? Qxh2+ 39.Kf1 Qf4+
40.Bf2 Rc1+-) 38...Ke8 39.Bxe5
(39.Bxc8? Bxd4+ 40.Kg2 Qe5+-)
39...Qxe5 40.Bxc8 Qe1+ 41.Kg2
Qe2+ 42.Kg3 Qe3+ 43.Kg2 Qe2+
44.Kg3 Qe3+ 45.Kg2 Qe2+=]

[35.Bb7 #8/21 Qxh2+ Decoy
36.Kxh2 Bxe5+ 37.Bxe5 Rc2+
38.Kg3 a4 39.Qxa4+ Kc5 40.Qc6+
Skewer, Deflection (40.Qxe4 Rc3+
41.Bxc3 Kd6 42.Qe5+ Kd7 43.Bb4
Kd8 44.Qe7#; 40.b4+ Kc4 41.Qb3+
Kb5 42.a4#) 40...Kb4 41.Qxb6+ Ka3
42.Qa5#]

35...Ka6! White is clearly winning. Now White goes on tilt, despite his position not yet being indefensible.

36.Bc4+ This pair of bishops is nice.

[36.Bxe4 Bxe5 37.Bd3+ Kb7

38.Bxe5 Qxe5 39.Qd7+ Rc7+]
36...Kb7 37.Qb5? In perfect chess,
 maybe the losing mistake. **37...Qh6**
38.Qa6+ Deflection 38...Kb8 39.Bxb6
 [39.Qxb6+? loses. Qxb6 40.Bxb6
 Bxe5+]
39...Rxc4 40.bxc4 White threatens
 Qa7+ and mate. **40...Qc6 41.Ba7+**
Kc7?! 42.Qxc6+? Kxc6 43.Bd4
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/
 Black=0.92. Loss on time!?
0-1

□ Motylev, Alexander

■ Secheres, Adrian Simion

Bucharest Grand Prix op rapid (6)

[Kitty Kat]

B08

2611

2371

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3
g6 5.d5 Nb8 6.h3 Bg7 7.Bc4 0-0
8.0-0 c6 9.a4 Qc7 10.Qe2

[10.Ba2 Na6 11.Re1 Nb4 12.Bb3
 e5 13.dxe6 Bxe6 14.Bxe6 fxe6
 15.e5 dxe5 16.Ne4 Nh5 17.Qe2
 Nd5 18.g3 a5 19.Bd2 Rad8 20.Nfg5
 Qe7 21.Bxa5 b6 22.Bd2 Rf5 23.c4
 Nc7 24.Be3 Qb4 1-0 (48) 12.c3 ♔g7
13.♚h5 00 14.e (2454)-3.g3 b5 4. ♔g5
(2402) Russian Championship 1995
(1)]

10...Nbd7N

[10...a5 11.Bf4 Nh5 12.Bh2 Nd7
 13.Rfe1 Ne5 14.Bb3 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3
 e5 16.dxe6 fxe6 17.Qe3 Kh8 18.e5
 d5 19.g4 b6 20.gxh5 gxh5 21.Bg3
 Bb7 22.h4 Rf5 23.f4 Rg8 24.Kh2
 Bh6 25.Ne2 (36) Chapter-Games
Chapter 4 Game 3]

11.Re1 White is more active. **11...Nc5**
1.25/21

[♞11...cxd5 **0.72/23** 12.exd5
 (12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Re8±)
 12...Re8]



12.dxc6 0.76/21

[♞12.e5! **1.25/21**]

12...bxc6± 13.e5 dxe5 1.42/21

[13...Ne8± **0.64/22**]

14.Qxe5 Qxe5 15.Nxe5 Bb7 1.99/21

[15...e6± **1.59/20** was worth a try.]

16.a5+- a6 17.Bg5 0.96/20

[Better is 17.Be3+- **1.79/19** Nce4
 18.Na4]

17...Rad8 1.96/22

[17...Nd5± **0.96/20** was called for.]

18.Ra3

Strongly threatening b4.

18...Ncd7? 4.01/20

[18...Rd6 **1.95/18** might work better.
 19.Be3 Ne6]

19.Nxf7

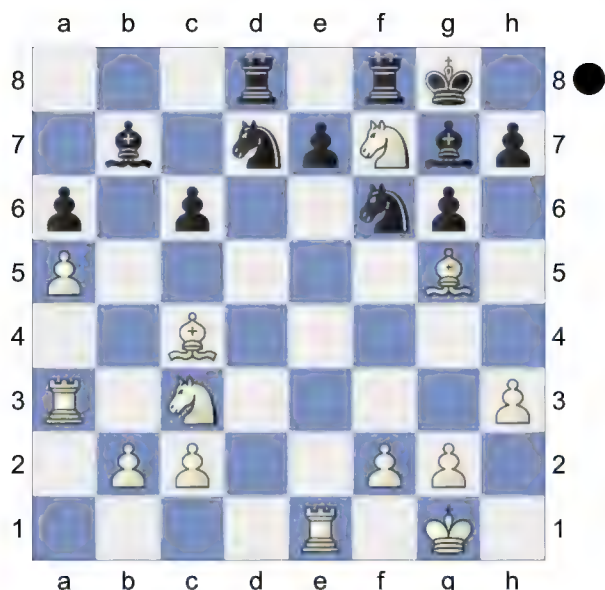
(Diagram)

Discovered Attack. White is winning.

19...Rxf7 20.Rxe7 Pin 20...Rdf8
21.Bxf6

[21.Bxf7+ Rxf7 22.Rxf7 Kxf7±]

21...Nxf6 22.Rxb7 Pin.



Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.53

1-0

□ Li,Ruifeng
 ■ Petrosian,Tigran L
 Saint Louis 134/34
 [Cabrillo,Goran, MH]

B08
2548
2615
 2017

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Bg4

Neil McDonald: 'A logical move: Black has less space so he ensures that he is able to exchange off his bishop before White has the chance for h2-h3. On the other hand it's not for nothing that swapping a bishop for a knight has been described as the loss of the minor exchange!' Neil McDonald: 'A logical move: Black has less space so he ensures that he is able to exchange off his bishop before White has the chance for h2-h3. On the other hand it's not for nothing that swapping a bishop for a knight has been described as the loss of the minor exchange!' **4.Be2**

Neil McDonald: 'There are two games in the archives with' Neil McDonald: 'There are two games in the archives with'

[4.Be3 and then Nf6 (or 4...e6) 5.Nc3 e6 If you want to play like that it is definitely a good idea to get the bishop out to g4 before shutting it in. Neil McDonald: 'If you want to play like that it is definitely a good idea to get the bishop out to g4 before shutting it in.']

4...Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 Neil McDonald: 'Making it a Pirc.' 6.d5 Neil McDonald: 'Li takes the chance to seize space. A less committal approach is'

[6.h3 Bxf3 7.Bxf3 Bg7 8.Ne2 bolstering d4 rather than play (8.0-0 when e5 looks good for equality.) 8...0-0 9.0-0 e5 10.c3 with some advantage to White. Neil McDonald: 'with some advantage to White.']

6...Bxf3 7.Bxf3 Ne5 8.Be2 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be3 c6 11.f4

[11.a4 was Lutz,C-Espig,L, in the PGN Archive.]

11...Ned7 Neil McDonald: 'Now Petrosian is ready to play 12...cxd5 when after 13.exd5 the white centre has lost its mobility. Black can then seek counterplay along the c-file. Therefore the US Grandmaster exchanges himself on c6.' Neil McDonald: 'Now Petrosian is ready to play 12...cxd5 when after 13.exd5 the white centre has lost its mobility. Black can then seek counterplay along the c-file. Therefore the US Grandmaster exchanges himself on c6.'

12.dxc6N

[12.Qd2 cxd5 13.exd5 Qa5 14.Rfe1 Rfc8 15.Kh1 Nb6 16.Rad1 Qb4 17.Rb1 Nc4 18.Bxc4 Rxc4 19.a3 Qa5 20.Bd4 Rac8 21.Rbd1 Qc7 22.Qe2 Qd7 23.Qxe7 Rxd4 24.Rxd4

Re8 25.Qxe8+ Nxe8 26.Rde4 Nf6
(29) Chapter Puzzles-Games Chapter
- Puzzles 1-20]

12...bxc6 Neil McDonald: 'This is an established, though not especially popular, theoretical line. Black can be pleased to have got rid of White's spearhead on d5 and have a pawn keeping the white knight out of the square.' Neil McDonald: 'This is an established, though not especially popular, theoretical line. Black can be pleased to have got rid of White's spearhead on d5 and have a pawn keeping the white knight out of the square.' **13.Bf3** 0.28/24 Neil McDonald: 'White's alternatives include'. White is more active.

[13.Qd3 - 70/ 108 - 70/ 108 Qa5 14.a3]

[13.Kh1 - 77/(107)]

[13.Qd2 Qa5 14.Rab1 and]

[13.Kh1± 0.67/22]

13...Qc7 14.Qd3

[14.Qd2 Rab8 15.b3 a5 16.Rad1↑]

14...e5N Neil McDonald: '!? '!' Neil McDonald: 'It appears that Black is going to win the e5 square for his pieces after 15... exf4 16.Bxf4 Ne8 and 17...Ne5. This is a new try for Black. His previous moves' Neil McDonald: '!? '!' Neil McDonald: 'It appears that Black is going to win the e5 square for his pieces after 15... exf4 16.Bxf4 Ne8 and 17...Ne5. This is a new try for Black. His previous moves'

[14...Rab8 Neil McDonald: 'haven't been particularly successful.' 15.b3±]
[14...a5 and]

15.g3 Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'A vital positional move.' Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'A vital positional move.'

[Terrible for White would be 15.f5?? -0.51/20 15.g3 0.35 gxf5! 16.exf5? -2.37/20 (16.Be2± -0.41/21) 16...d5 when the black centre springs to life with winning threats. Neil McDonald: 'when the black centre springs to life with winning threats.']

15...Rfe8 Neil McDonald: '?! '?! Neil McDonald: 'More energetic was' Neil McDonald: '?! '?! Neil McDonald: 'More energetic was'. White has an edge.

[15...Nc5! 16.Qd2 (If 16.Bxc5 -0.14/18 16.Qd2 0.32 dxc5 and Black's grip on the dark squares outweighs the supposed weakness of the doubled pawns. For example Neil McDonald: 'and Black's grip on the dark squares outweighs the supposed weakness of the doubled pawns. For example' 17.f5 Rfd8 18.Qe3 Qb6 19.Na4 Qb4 20.b3! White wants to play c3. Qd4 21.Rae1 Bh6! 22.Qxd4 cxd4 with full equality. Neil McDonald: 'with full equality.') 16...Rfe8 with an indirect threat to the e4 pawn. 17.f5! gxf5 18.Rad1 0.08/25 and Black is no worse in the complications. (18.exf5± 0.56/21 e4 19.Bg2)]

16.Rad1 Bf8 Neil McDonald: 'Black's centre holds firm.' Neil McDonald: 'Black's centre holds firm.'

[16...exf4 17.gxf4 Re6!?± Δ Rae8 Xe4]

17.Kh1 0.33/23

[17.f5± 0.78/21]

17...Rab8 Neil McDonald: '?! '?! Neil McDonald: 'Again Black has the chance to gain dark square counterplay with'

Neil McDonald: '?!' '?!' Neil McDonald: 'Again Black has the chance to gain dark square counterplay with' Neil McDonald: 'Again Black has the chance to gain dark square counterplay with'

[17...Nc5 18.Bxc5 dxc5]

18.b3 Qa5?! 1.53/22 Neil McDonald: 'Petrosian realises he has to get his knight to c5 to gain counterplay against the e4 pawn. However his reluctance to accept doubled pawns as in the Nc5 lines above allows White the chance to build up a kingside attack.' Neil McDonald: 'Petrosian realises he has to get his knight to c5 to gain counterplay against the e4 pawn. However his reluctance to accept doubled pawns as in the Nc5 lines above allows White the chance to build up a kingside attack.'

[18...exf4 1.00/21 18...Nc5 0.57 19.gxf4 Rbd8 20.Qa6 0.08/21 (20.Qe2± 0.94/21) 20...Nxe4!= 21.Bxe4 (21.Nxe4 d5∞; 21.Nxe4!? d5□ 22.Qxa7 Qxa7 23.Bxa7 dxe4 24.Be2=) 21...d5 22.f5 Threatens to win with Bf4. dxe4 23.Bf4 Qb6 24.Qxb6! Nxb6 (24...axb6? 2.37/23 24...Nxb6 0.19 25.Bc7+-) 25.Nxe4! Bg7 Repels Nf6+ 26.fxg6 hxg6 27.Rxd8 Rxd8 28.Bg5 Rd5 29.c4 Re5 30.Nf6+ Kf8 31.h4 next Rd1 is good for White. Re6 32.Kg2±] [18...Nc5!± 0.51/23 19.Qd2 exf4 20.Bxc5 dxc5 21.Qxf4 Qe5]

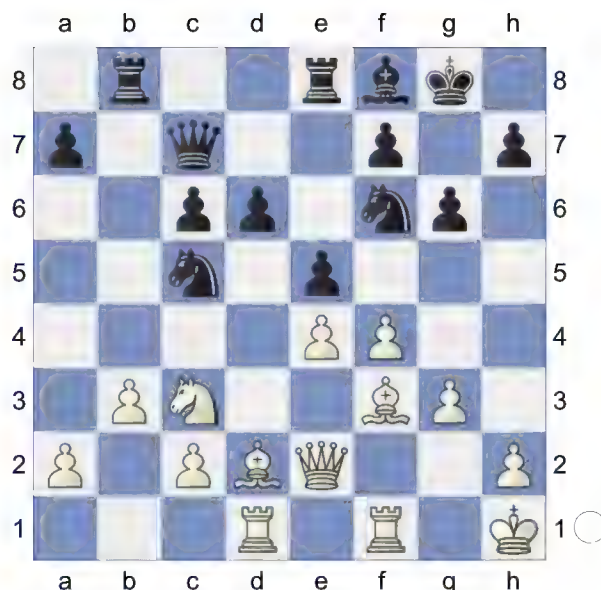
19.Bd2 0.84/21

[19.f5!↑ gxf5 1.75/21 (19...Rbd8± 1.34/18 was necessary.) 20.Bg2+- f4 (20...fxe4? 3.45/20 20...f4 1.81 21.Nxe4 Re6 22.Bh3+-) 21.gxf4±] [♠19.f5! 1.53/22]

19...Nc5 1.21/19

[♠19...Qd8 0.84/21]

20.Qe2± Qc7 Diagram



21.f5

Neil McDonald: '!?' '!?' Neil McDonald: 'The potential pressure is building up on e4 and White doesn't have any obvious quiet way to improve his game. Therefore Li decides to cut across Black's plans with an enterprising pawn sacrifice.' Neil McDonald: '!?' '!?' Neil McDonald: 'The potential pressure is building up on e4 and White doesn't have any obvious quiet way to improve his game. Therefore Li decides to cut across Black's plans with an enterprising pawn sacrifice.' Neil McDonald: 'The potential pressure is building up on e4 and White doesn't have any obvious quiet way to improve his game. Therefore Li decides to cut across Black's plans with an enterprising pawn sacrifice.' **21...gxf5 22.Bg5!**

Neil McDonald: '! '!' Neil McDonald: 'The consistent move. Totally wrong would be' Neil McDonald: '! '!' Neil McDonald: 'The consistent move. Totally wrong would be' Neil McDonald: 'The consistent move. Totally wrong would be'

[22.exf5? -0.36/20 22.Bg5 1.06 d5 0.21/22 when Black has a beautiful

centre. Neil McDonald: 'when Black has a beautiful centre.' (22...e4!± -0.36/20 23.Bg2 e3)]

22...Bg7 23.Bxf6!

[23.exf5?! d5=]

23...Bxf6 24.Bh5 0.48/20

Neil McDonald: '?' '?' Neil McDonald: 'Hoping to play 25.Rxf5 with strong pressure down the f-file. However White missed the curious move' Neil McDonald: '?' '?' Neil McDonald: 'Hoping to play 25.Rxf5 with strong pressure down the f-file. However White missed the curious move' Neil McDonald: 'Hoping to play 25.Rxf5 with strong pressure down the f-file. However White missed the curious move'

[24.Bg4! Neil McDonald: 'Here' 24...f4 Neil McDonald: 'doesn't work in view of' (24...fxg4 25.Rxf6 Re6 26.Qxg4+ Kh8 27.Qf3 Kg8 28.Rf1 and White has a strong attack.) 25.Bf5!↑ Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'threatening to target h7 with 26.Qh5.' Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'threatening to target h7 with 26.Qh5.'

[24.exf5 d5 25.Qe3 Nd7±]

[24.Bg4± 1.00/21]

24...f4± Neil McDonald: 'Now White will only be able to utilise the f-file at the cost of bringing Black's bishop to life and allowing the rook on e8 to attack the e4 pawn.' Neil McDonald: 'Now White will only be able to utilise the f-file at the cost of bringing Black's bishop to life and allowing the rook on e8 to attack the e4 pawn.' **25.gxf4 Kh8** Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'Petrosian is relying on a positional pawn sacrifice.' Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'Petrosian is relying on a positional pawn sacrifice.' Neil McDonald:

'Petrosian is relying on a positional pawn sacrifice.'

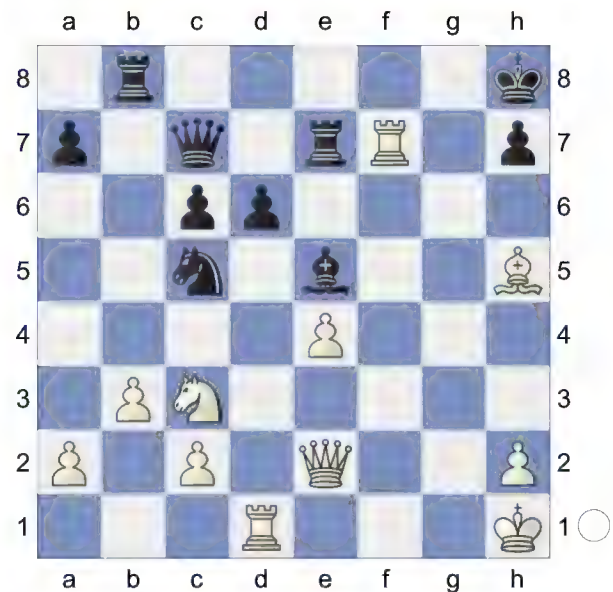
[25...exf4 26.Rxf4 Bxc3 27.Rxf7±]

26.fxe5 0.14/22 Neil McDonald: 'White has less than nothing after' Neil McDonald: 'White has less than nothing after'

[26.f5 Bg5 (26...Rg8) 27.Qc4 Rf8 28.Rg1 h6∞]

[26.f5± 0.51/24]

26...Bxe5= 27.Rxf7 Re7±



Neil McDonald: 'White is a pawn up. On the other hand Black has a beautiful and untouchable bishop which is threatening his knight.' Neil McDonald: 'White is a pawn up. On the other hand Black has a beautiful and untouchable bishop which is threatening his knight.'

28.Rdf1 Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'Offering a piece rather than hand over the initiative with' Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'Offering a piece rather than hand over the initiative with' Neil McDonald: 'Offering a piece rather than hand over the initiative with' **28...Bxc3 29.Qg4? -1.14/25** Neil McDonald: 'threatening mate in two but missing the much

stronger' Neil McDonald: 'threatening mate in two but missing the much stronger'

[29.Qe3 Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'hitting the bishop and also planning 30.Qh6 to mate on h7. Play might go' Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'hitting the bishop and also planning 30.Qh6 to mate on h7. Play might go' Neil McDonald: 'hitting the bishop and also planning 30.Qh6 to mate on h7. Play might go' Bg7! Strongly threatening ...Qd8! 30.Qg5! Neil McDonald: 'attacking e7 and g7.' Neil McDonald: 'attacking e7 and g7.' Rxf7 31.Rxf7 Ne6! Neil McDonald: 'the only move.' 32.Qf5 Qb6 (Neil McDonald: 'Or' 32...Qc8 ...Rb5 is the strong threat. 33.Bg4! Neil McDonald: 'and White regains the piece with winning chances.') 33.Qxe6 Qe3

A) 34.Qg4 Bd4 35.Rf1 Rg8
Neil McDonald: 'After'

A1) 36.Qf3?? -#2/18 36.Qd1 0.02 Rg1+ or (36...Qg1+ will mate.);

A2) 36.Qd1 c5= 37.Bg4 Qxe4+ 38.Bf3 Qe3 39.Bd5 Rg5 40.c4 with equality.;

B) 34.Rf1 Dodges Qe1 34...Rg8! 35.Rg1 Rf8 36.Qe7 Rg8=]

[29.Qe3= 0.00/25 remains equal. Bg7 (29...Nxe4 30.Qh6±) 30.Qg5 Rxf7 (30...Nxe4 31.Qxg7#) 31.Rxf7]

29...Rxf7!?

[29...Nxe4 30.Rf8+ Rxf8 31.Rxf8#]

30.Rxf7 Qc8 31.Rxh7+!

Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'The only chance is to try to force a draw by perpetual check.' Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'The only chance is to try to force a draw by perpetual check.'

' Neil McDonald: 'The only chance is to try to force a draw by perpetual check.'

[31.Qxc8+ Rxc8 32.Bg4 Re8 33.Bf5 Nxe4 34.Rxh7+ Kg8 35.Rxa7 Nf2+ 36.Kg2 Nd1!-+]

[31.Qg5? Qe6 (31...Nxe4 32.Qe7±) 32.Qf5 Qh6-+ (32...Qxe4+? 33.Bf3-+)]

31...Kxh7 32.Bg6+ Kh6 33.Qh5+ Kg7 34.Qh7+ Kf6 35.Qf7+ Ke5!

Neil McDonald: 'After'

[35...Kg5? 0.05/24 35...Ke5 -2.84 36.h4+! Kxh4 37.Qf4+! Qg4 38.Qh6+ Kg3 39.Qh2+ Kf3 (-> ...Rh8!) 40.Bh5!± Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'wins the black queen with a probable draw.' Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'wins the black queen with a probable draw.']

[35...Kg5 36.h4+ Kxh4 37.Qf4+ Qg4 38.Qh6+ Kg3 39.Qh2+ Kf3 40.Bh5± (40.Qxd6? Qg2#)]

36.Qg7+ Kf4 37.Qh6+

[37.Qxc3! Nxe4-+]

37...Kf3 38.Bh5+ Kxe4 39.Bg6+ Kf3

Neil McDonald: '?' '?' Neil McDonald: 'Instead' Neil McDonald: '?' '?' Neil McDonald: 'Instead'. Hoping for ...Qe6.

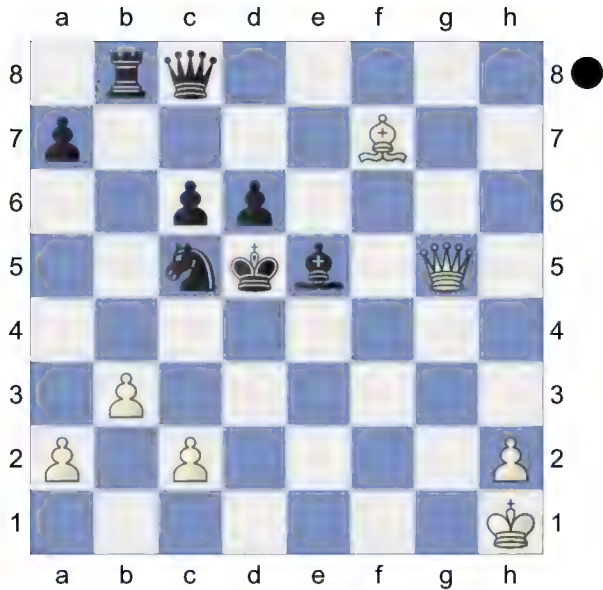
[39...Kd4! might have won: 40.Qg7+ Kd5 41.Bf7+ Ne6]

40.Bh5+ Ke4!

[40...Kf2 41.Qf4+ (41.Qxd6? too greedy. Ke3-+) 41...Ke1 42.Qe3+ Kf1 43.Qg1#]

41.Bg6+ Kd5 42.Qg5+ Be5

Neil McDonald: 'The white bishop and black king make a pretty little dance backwards and forwards along the diagonals.' Neil McDonald: 'The white bishop and black king make a pretty little dance backwards and forwards along the diagonals.' **43.Bf7+ Diagram**



43...Ke4?

[43...Ne6! 44.Qe3 (Δ c4) Bc3! 45.Qxc3 aiming for Qe3.c5
Neil McDonald: '!' '!' Neil McDonald: 'making a hole on c6 for the king. Now White runs out of checks without getting back sufficient material after either' Neil McDonald: 'making a hole on c6 for the king. Now White runs out of checks without getting back sufficient material after either'. ...Kc6 would now be deadly.

A) 46.Qe3 Kc6 (Not 46...c4?? 6.04/24 46...Kc6 -2.75 47.Bxe6+ Qxe6 48.bxc4+ winning Black's queen! Neil McDonald: 'winning Black's queen!') 47.Bxe6 Qf8 or;

B) 46.Qf6

(Diagram)

And now Bxe6+ would win.
46...Kc6! 47.Bxe6 Qf8
Neil McDonald: 'and Black is winning.' Neil McDonald: 'and Black is winning.']

44.Bg6+! Kf3

[44...Kd5!]



[After 44...Kd4? 4.48/18 44...Kd5 -2.
44 Black suffers a glorious defeat:
Neil McDonald: 'Black suffers a glorious defeat:' 45.Qd2+ Nd3



46.c3+! the only move to win rather than lose! Kd5 (46...Kc5 #5/14 46...Kd5 4.41 47.Qe3+ Kd5 48.Bf7+ Qe6 49.c4#) 47.Qxd3+ Black has to give up his queen with Neil McDonald: 'Black has to give up his queen with' Ke6 (47...Kc5 #5/18 47...Ke6 4.00 if 48.Qe3+ Kb5 49.Bd3+ Ka5 50.Qxa7+ and mate

next move.) 48.Bf5+ etc.]

45.Bh5+ Ke4 46.Bg6+ Kd5!

[46...Kf3? 0.00/19 46...Kd5 -2.62
47.Qg2+?? -4.07/22 (47.Bh5+=
0.00/19 and White is okay. Ke4
48.Bg6+) 47...Ke3+- White must now
prevent ...Qf8. 48.Qg5+ Bf4 49.Qg1+
Ke2 50.Qg2+ Ke1 51.Qg1+ Ke2
52.Qg2+ Ke3 53.Qg1+ Ke2? 0.00/36
(Black should play 53...Kd2+- -2.59/31
54.Qd4+ Nd3 55.Qxd3+ Kc1
56.Qf1+ Kb2 57.Qxf4 Kxa2 58.Qa4+
Kb1 59.c3+ Kb2)]

47.Bf7+ Ke4? 0.00/31

[47...Ne6!±]
[47...Ne6+- -2.46/32 48.Qe3 Bc3
(48...Bd4? 49.Bxe6+ Qxe6 50.c4+
Deflection Kc5 51.Qxe6+-) 49.Qxc3
Qa6]

48.Bg6!= Kf3

[48...Kd5? 49.Bf7+-+]

49.Bh5+ Ke4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08
(flawless) /Black=0.36

1/2-1/2

□ Edouard,Romain

B00

2680

■ Sokolov,Andrei

2556

FRA-ch 89th Nimes (10)

27.08.2014

[Ed Romain,MH]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Postny,Evgeny 1...Nc6 2.d4 d5
3.e5 Bf5 4.c3 e6 5.Nf3 Qd7N 0.85/21

[5...Nge7 0.83/20 5...f6 0.39 6.Nh4
(6.Be2 Ng6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Nbd2 0-0
9.h3 Nh4 10.Nxh4 Bxh4 11.0-0 f6
12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Nf3 Qd6 14.Re1 e5
15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Qb3 c6 17.Rad1
Nxf3+ 18.Bxf3 Rf7 19.Rd2 Be5

20.Qd1 b5 X-X (32) 12.ef7 ♖f7 13.
♔d1 ♘b6 1 (2225)-Warakomska,A

(2075) Belgrade Serbia op 2021
21.Bd4 Bh2+ 22.Kh1 Bf4 23.Rde2
Bd7 24.Bg4 c5 25.Be6 cxd4
26.Bxf7+ Kxf7 27.Qxd4 Rf8 28.Qxa7
Kg8 29.Qd4 Qc6 30.Rd1 Be6
31.Rde1 Bd7 32.Rd1 Be6

X-X 12.ef7 ♖f7 13.♔d1 ♘b6 1 (2357)-
Socko,M (2075) 73/(582) Dortmund
1998) 6...Bg6± 1-0 (61) Caruana,F
(2716)-Rublevsky,S (2678) Olginka
2011 7.Nd2 Postny,Evgeny f6
(7...Nf5 8.Nxg6 hxg6 9.g3 Be7
10.Bg2 Qd7 11.Qe2 0-0-0 12.a4
Rh7 13.a5 Rdh8 14.Nf3 B 00/09-N,
N 2000) 8.exf6 gxf6 9.Nxg6 0.43/23
(9.Qb3± 0.81/19) 9...Nxg6 1.18/20
(9...hxg6± 0.43/23 10.b4 Nf5)
10.Qb3± a6 11.g3]

[Better is 5...f6± 0.34/23]

6.Nh4± Be4

[6...Bg6 1.21/23 6...Be4 0.85
7.Nxg6∞ hxg6 Postny,Evgeny 8.Bb5
Nge7 9.Nd2 a6 10.Ba4 Nf5 11.Nf3
0.95/20 (♠11.0-0 1.33/20)]

7.Nd2!? A very recent idea. Though this
move for sure has bad sides, the main
idea for White is to castle long, not only
winning a tempo (♔f3 instead of ♔d2+f3)
but also often transferring the queen to
g3. 7...0-0-0?! 8.Bb5 White is better.

[8.Nxe4 0.34/19 8.Nhf3 1.14 dxe4±
9.Qe2?! -0.61/22 (9.Bb5± 0.34/22)
9...Nxd4!± 10.cxd4 Bb4+]

8...a6 9.Ba4 f6

[9...Nge7 1.98/18 9...f6 1.06 10.Nxe4
dxe4± Now that Black castled short
and White could get a decent setup,
Black shouldn't have enough
c o m p e n s a t i o n . 11.Qe2
Postny,Evgeny]

10.Nhf3

Postny,Evgeny: 'would

transpose to the same position as in the current game Edouard-Sokolov by a different order of moves.' **10...Nge7**

[10...Bd3 11.Nb3 Be4 12.Na5± (12.Nbd2) 12...Nge7! 13.0-0

A) 13...Kb8? 14.Nd2 Bf5 **1.51/19**

(14...fxe5± **0.60/20** 15.Nxc6+ Nxc6) 15.Ndb3± b5 (15...b6?

3.85/21 15...b5 **1.15** 16.Nc5)

16.Nc5 Qc8 17.Bxb5! The rook appeared to be extremely useful on the b-file. axb5 18.Nab7-+;

B) 13...b6 was the best way to stay in the game, though Black doesn't have full compensation here either. Now it's bad to grab the pawn:

14.Nxc6? Postny,Evgeny Nxc6]

11.0-0! Ng6?! Postny,Evgeny: '?'

12.Re1 0.70/19 Postny,Evgeny: '']

[12.b4± **1.06/21**]

12...Bf5?!± 13.b4 fxe5?! 14.dxe5

0.49/19 The black queen is being totally dominated and my idea is simple: g3, ♖e2, f4.

[14.Nxe5 Ngxe5 15.dxe5 b5±]

[14.Rxe5± **0.87/23** Bd6 15.Re2]

14...b5! 15.Bc2 d4 16.Bxf5! exf5

17.c4 Threatens to win with e6.

17...Bxb4

[17...bxc4 18.Nxc4+- Bd2 is the strong threat. Bxb4 19.Bd2]

18.cxb5 0.11/18

[18.e6! Qd6 19.cxb5 axb5

...Bc3 would now be deadly. 20.a4+- Bc3 21.axb5!+- Bxa1 22.Qa4!+- Nb8!? followed by f4 would be very

strong as well and would more or less force Black to sac on b6, with almost no compensation. 23.Ba3! Qd5

24.Rxa1 Qxe6? **3.22/19** (24...Rhe8± **0.78/19** keeps fighting.) 25.b6+-

And now bxc7 would win. Qc6 26.Rc1! Qxb6± Strongly threatening ...

Nf4. White could win at once with

27.Rb1! Qe6 28.Nxd4! **1.02/21**

(28.Nc4!+- **2.14/21** aiming for Qb5.

Qe4 29.Qb5) 28...Rxd4± 29.Qxd4+-

Postny,Evgeny: 'was even more convincing.']

[White should try 18.e6± **0.78/25** Qd6

19.cxb5 axb5 20.a4]

18...axb5= 19.Rb1! Rhe8 0.73/19

[19...Qd5!± 20.a4 Black must now

prevent axb5. Bxd2 **0.72/24**

(20...Bc3!= **0.10/23** 21.Rxb5 Qa2)

21.Bxd2 b4! 22.Bxb4±]

[19...Qd5!= **0.19/22** keeps the

balance. 20.a4 Nf4]

20.a4± Qd5 1.18/20

[Black should play 20...Bc3 **0.79/21**

21.Rxb5 h6]

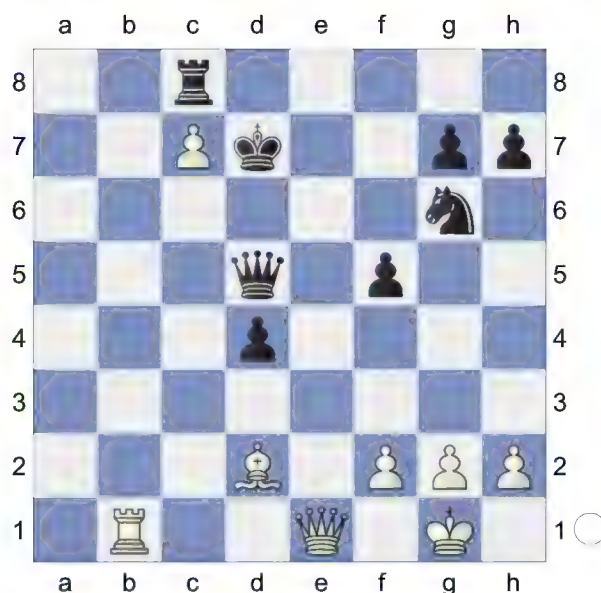
21.axb5 Postny,Evgeny: 'It's hard to find even one black piece which is normally

placed.' **21...Bxd2 22.Bxd2**

[22.Qxd2 Ncxe5 23.Nxe5 Rxe5±]

22...Ncxe5 23.Nxe5 Rxe5 24.b6!

Rxe1+ 25.Qxe1! Kd7 26.bxc7 Rc8



27.Rb4 0.09/20

[27.Qd1 **0.34/17** 27.Qe2 **1.59** Rxc7

28.Qa4+ Ke7 29.h4]

[27.Qe2!± **1.59/23**]

27...Rxc7=

[27...Nf8 0.72/20 27...Rxc7 0.12]

28.Qa1

[28.Qb1 feels hotter. Ke6 29.h3 Ne5 30.Rb5]

28...Ke8 29.Rxd4 Qe6 30.h4

Hoping for Rd3. 30...Rd7 31.Qa4

[31.h5 simplifies Ne7 32.Rxd7 Qxd7 33.Bc3]

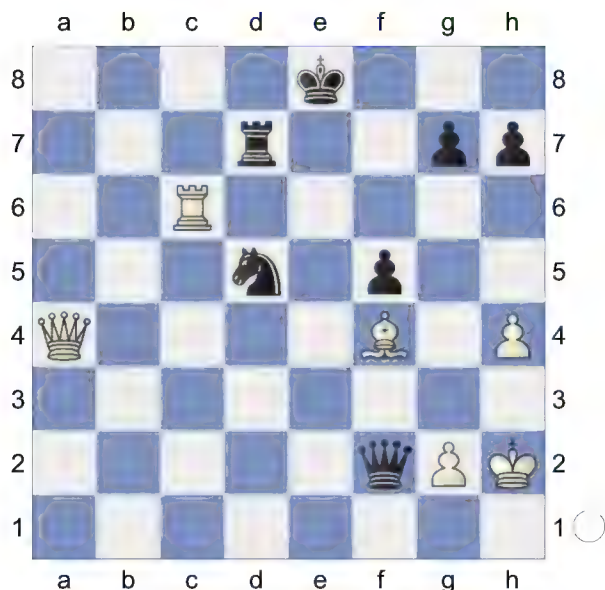
31...Ne5 32.Bf4 Nc6 33.Rc4

[33.Rxd7 simplifies Qxd7 34.Qa2 Kf8 35.Qb3]

33...Ne7 34.Rc7 Nd5 35.Rc6 Qe1+

36.Kh2 Kf7

[36...Qxf2? 5.73/19 36...Nxf4 0.04



37.Re6+! Kd8+- 38.Qa8#]

[36...Nxf4 is more complex. 37.Rc8+ Ke7 38.Qxf4 Qe6]

37.Qa2

[37.Ra6 simplifies Qe8 38.f3 Nxf4 39.Qxf4 Kg8 40.Qxf5 Qb8+ 41.Kh3]

37...Qe4 38.g3 h6 39.h5 Qf3 40.Kg1 Kg8

[40...Qxh5 simplifies 41.Rc7 Qd1+ 42.Kh2 Rxc7 43.Bxc7 g5]

41.Rc8+? -1.61/25

[41.Qa8+ Kh7 42.Qe8?! White wants to mate with Qg6+.

Qd1+!+- 43.Kh2!? Nxf4 44.gxf4+- Rd8 Against Rc8]

[41.Qa8+= 0.00/29 Kf7 (41...Kh7 42.Qe8=) 42.Bd6]

41...Kh7+- 42.Qa8? -4.54/34

[42.Be5? -1.44/20 is more resistant.]

42...Qd1+

[42...Qxh5 43.Rh8+ Kg6 44.Qe8+ Rf7 45.Rf8 Qd1+ 46.Kh2 Qh5+ 47.Kg1 Qd1+ 48.Kh2 Qh5+ 49.Kg1=]

43.Kh2 Qxh5+ 44.Kg1 Qd1+ 45.Kh2

Nxf4 46.Rh8+- Kg6 47.Qe8+ Kg5

48.gxf4+ Kxf4+- Endgame. KQR-KQR

49.Rf8 -6.36/21

[49.Qe3+ Kg4+- 50.Qg3+?! would allow Kh5 or 28...Qe3.]

[49.Rg8 -4.44/19 Qd3 50.Kg1]

49...Kg5? 0.00/44

[49...Rd3]

[49...Rd3+- -6.36/21 (-> ...Rh3+!)

50.Qb8+ (50.Qf7? leads to mate.

Rh3+ Decoy 51.Kxh3 Qh1#) 50...Kg5

51.Rxf5+ Decoy Kxf5 52.Qf8+ Ke4

53.Qa8+ Rd5 54.Qe8+ Kd3

55.Qe3+ Kc2 56.Qe4+ Kc3 57.Kh3

Rh5+ (57...Qd3+ 58.Qxd3+ Kxd3

59.Kg4 Ke4 60.f3+ Ke3 61.f4 h5+

62.Kg3 Rf5 63.Kg2 Rxf4 64.Kg3

Rg4+ 65.Kh2 Ke2 66.Kh3 Kf2

67.Kh2 Rh4#) 58.Kg3 Qg1+ 59.Kf4

Qh2+ (59...Qxf2+ gets mated.

60.Qf3+ Qxf3+ 61.Kxf3 Kd3 62.Kg4

g6 63.Kf4 Rf5+ 64.Kg4 Ke2 65.Kg3

Kf1 66.Kh3 Kf2 67.Kg4 Kg2 68.Kh4

Rf4#; 59...Rh4+ is a self mate. 60.Ke5

Qg5+ 61.Qf5 Qe7+ 62.Qe6 Rh5+

Deflection 63.Kf4 Qxe6 64.Kg3

Qh3+ 65.Kf4 Rf5+ Skewer 66.Ke4

Qf3#) 60.Kf3 Qh1+ 61.Ke3 Rh3+

62.Kf4 Rh4+ 63.Ke5 Rxe4+

(63...Qxe4+ 64.Kd6 Qd3+ 65.Ke6

Rd4 66.Kf7 Rd7+ 67.Ke8 Qd6 68.f3

Qe7#) 64.Kf5 Re7 (64...Qf3+
65.Kg6 Qxf2 66.Kh7 Qf5+ 67.Kg8
Qg6 68.Kh8 Re8#) 65.Kg4 Qg2+
66.Kh4 Re1 67.Kh5 Rh1#]

50.Qe3+= The position is equal.

50...Kg6 51.Qe6+- Deflection

51...Kh7! 52.Qg8+

[52.Qe8!? Qd6+□ 53.Kh1 Qc6+
54.Kh2 Qd6+ 55.Kh3 Qd3+ 56.Kh2
Qd6+=]

**52...Kg6 53.Qe6+ Deflection, Double
Attack 53...Kh7! 54.Qg8+ Kg6**

55.Qe6+ Deflection, Double Attack.

Never resign too early!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/
Black=0.20 (precise) . Loss on time!?

1-0

C42

□ **Ter Sahakyan, Samvel**

2574

■ **Petrosian, Tigran L**

2654

74th ch-ARM 2014 (9.4)

21.01.2014

[Glenn Flear, MH]

**C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and
unusual White 3rd moves**

**1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4
e5!?** A very unusual choice, at this point,
but certainly a reasonable option. Black
transposes to a sideline of the Scotch
Four Knights (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3
Nf6 4.d4 and now 4...d6!?). However
the move order from the Nimzovich, as
here, looks more logical!

[By opting for 4...g6 Black seeks a
type of Pirc Defence. The knight on c6
(so early) is slightly unusual, but
White's 'classical' set-up isn't
particularly aggressive. 5.Be3 Bg7
6.Qd2 Bg4 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 d5!?
9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.h3
Bf5 12.c4 Qa5 Bjornsson, Si-

Kristjansson, St Icelandic league
2013, left White with only a tiny
space advantage.]

[The main line here is 4...Bg4 5.Be3
(5.d5 Nb8 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 g6
8.Bg5 Bg7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.Qe2 c6
11.f4 Qc7 12.g4 h6 13.Bh4 Nh7
14.e5 g5 15.dxc6 Qxc6 16.Bg2 Qc8
17.exd6 e6 18.f5 gxh4 19.fxe6 0-0
1-0 (29) 2 b4 and 2 a3 (2587)-Kampal,

T (2477) 69/374 Ubeda 1997 (1))

5...e6 6.h3 when White is able to
keep a pull e.g. (6.Be2 Be7 7.d5

exd5 8.exd5 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Ne5

10.Be2 0-0 Chess Informant ECO

Chess Informant ECO B4 2002)

6...Bh5 7.d5 exd5 8.exd5 Ne5 9.g4

Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 Bg6 11.0-0-0 Be7

12.Bd4 (White has also scored well

with the plan of 12.Qg2 followed by

f2-f4) 12...h6 13.h4 Kapnisis, S-

Papadatos, I Paleochoira 2013.]

5.h3N Avoiding ...Bg4 and thus
maintaining a space edge.

[5.dxe5 dxe5 (5...Nxe5 6.Nd4 Be7

7.f4 Ned7 8.Qf3 0-0 9.Be3 Nc5

10.h3 Re8 11.0-0-0 Bf8 12.e5

Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6

#17) 6.Qxd8+ Kxd8 7.Bg5 h6

8.0-0-0+ Bd6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Nxg5

hgx5 11.Bxg5 Ke7 12.Nd5+

Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6

#19]

5...Be7

[Here 5...exd4 makes sense (after

White has spent a tempo on the slow

h2-h3) 6.Nxd4 and then g6

gives a dynamic game that could

have transposed from a Scotch, a

Philidor, or Three Knights opening!

The following involves both sides

playing principled moves: 7.g4! Bg7

8.Nde2 h5! 9.g5 Nh7 10.f4 f6 11.h4

fxg5 12.hxg5 Bg4 Vajda, L-Lu Shanglei, Golden Sands 2012, with chances for both sides.]

6.d5

[6.Bb5!? looks more like it originated from a Spanish, Old Steinitz Variation, e.g. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 etc). Bd7 7.d5 Nb8 8.Bxd7+ (if White retreats with 8.Bd3 Black can hit back anyway with c6) 8...Nbxd7 9.Be3 c6 10.Qd3 Qa5 11.0-0 cxd5 12.exd5 0-0 13.Nd2 a6 14.a4 Rfc8= Sredojevic, I-Todorovic, GN Serbian league 2011.]

6...Nb8 7.g3!? 0.22/23 White breaks new ground already!

[Other moves have been tried here, but it certainly isn't clear where the light-squared bishop is best placed. Here is an example: 7.Be3 c5 **1.51/19** (Δ 7...c6 **0.72/19**) 8.dxc6!? **-0.08/19** (I might have been tempted to leave the structure intact and play a sort of Old Benoni with a space edge) (8.Nd2± **1.51/19**) 8...bxc6= 9.Bc4 0-0 10.0-0 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Qe2 Qc8 **0.48/22** (12...Nc7= **-0.12/20**) 13.Rad1 **0.06/22** (13.Nh4!± **0.48/22**) 13...Nc7= Nanu, C-Rasinaru, G Deva 1998.]

[7.g4± **0.75/24**]

7...0-0 8.Bg2 White is slightly better.

8...c6 9.dxc6 -0.29/20

[Δ 9.Be3 **0.30/22**]

9...bxc6= 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.b3

A second fianchetto by White in an erstwhile classical opening is a rare occurrence. **11...Nc5 12.Re1 Re8**

13.Bb2 I'm not a great fan of placing a bishop on b2 against the d6-e5 wall, especially as f2-f4 looks a long way off. Nevertheless, it essentially stops Black seeking any pawn breaks, so the players

both go into manoeuvring mode.

13...Rb8 14.Qe2 Bf8 15.Rad1 Qc7

16.Qe3 a5 17.a3 -0.67/20

[Δ 17.Ba3 **-0.31/18**]

17...Bb7 18.Nh2 Rbd8 19.Ng4

Not really worrying. **19...Nxg4 20.hxg4**

Qc8 21.g5 Qg4 22.Bf3 Qh3 23.Bg2

Qh5 24.Bc1

[More enterprising than offering a repetition with 24.Bf3 but also suggesting that b2 wasn't such a great square after all.]

24...Be7 25.f4!? -0.28/20 The tension mounts as White goes for kingside expansion.

[Δ 25.Qe2 **0.11/21** Qxe2 26.Rxe2]

25...Ne6 0.11/24

[Δ 25...exf4 **-0.28/20** 26.gxf4 d5]

26.Qf2?! -0.49/25

[After the more solid 26.Qe2 Qxe2 27.Nxe2 chances would have been balanced, but as White isn't then going anywhere on the kingside this wouldn't have been a very coherent follow-up to his previous move.]

[26.Qe2= **0.11/24** Qxe2 27.Nxe2]

26...f6!? It's a wise idea to nibble away at White's pawns before he gets settled.

[However it might have been better to have gone about this task in a different way: 26...exf4 27.gxf4 Hoping for Rd3. h6! as 28.gxh6 **-0.83/19** drops material to (28.Bf3± **-0.42/25** Qh3 29.gxh6) 28...Bh4± 29.Qe2 Qc5+ 30.Qe3 Bxe1]

27.gxf6 Bxf6 28.f5 Ng5 0.21/21

[More natural is occupying the outpost with 28...Nd4!]

[28...Nd4± **-0.46/21**]

29.Qe2↑ White has good play. **29...Qf7**

30.Na4 White has the 'threat' of playing c2-c4 with a bind, so Black is 'honour bound' to pre-empt this with his next

move. **30...d5! 31.Nc5 Bc8 32.Be3 h6**
0.39/22

[32...Be7= **0.02/21** might be stronger.]

33.c4! Forcing Black's hand. **33...d4**
 A committal move, but one that should be good enough for equality. **34.Bc1**
0.00/21

[34.Bd2!± **0.42/22** is more appropriate.]

34...Qa7 35.Nd3 -0.60/21

[35.b4= **0.22/19**]

35...c5 -0.11/24

[35...Ba6!± **-0.60/21** was preferable. 36.Qc2 g6]

36.a4!? -0.99/18 A safe positional choice. White stabilizes the queenside and now prepares to lay siege to c5, noting that e5 and a5 will also require attention from his opponent. On the other hand, b3 and e4 will remain White's weak spots.

[36.b4 axb4 37.axb4 cxb4 38.Nxb4 is more double-edged.]

[36.Bd2= **-0.11/24**]

36...Qb6± 37.Qc2 Bb7 38.Re2 Rb8 39.Ba3 Bc6!? -0.45/17 Sharpening the struggle.

[After 39...Rec8 aiming for ...Bc6. 40.Rb1 I can't see how either player would be able to make progress.]

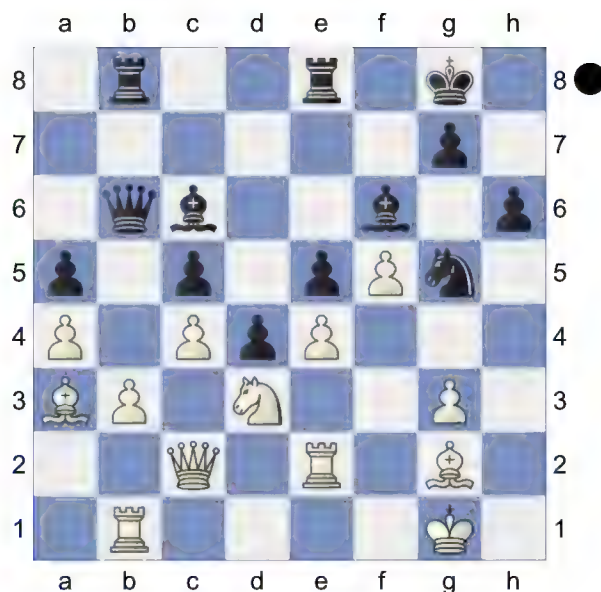
[39...Rbc8± **-0.97/21**]

40.Rb1!±

(Diagram)

Bxa4 0.01/18 41.Bxc5!= Qb7 42.Bd6!? -0.45/19

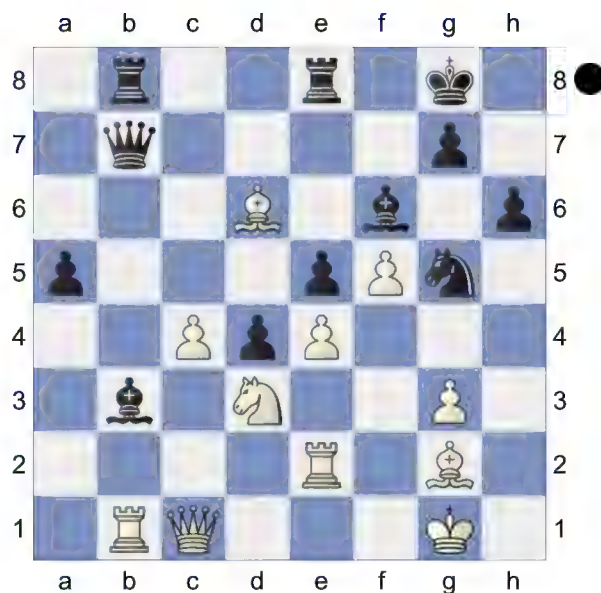
[Possibly 42.Bb4! Bxb3 43.Rxb3 axb4 44.c5!? when I think that White's pieces are slightly better than his opponent's, although my computer only considers this to be equal.]



[42.Bb4!= **0.00/22**]

42...Bxb3± 43.Qc1 -1.48/19

[♖43.Bxb8 **-0.73/20** Bxc2 44.Rxb7 Bxd3 45.Kf2]



43...Qc6? 0.00/27 Sacrificing the exchange, but not in the best manner.

44.Bxb8= Rxb8 45.c5

[45.Reb2!? a4□ (45...Qxc4? 46.Qxc4+ Bxc4 47.Rxb8+-) 46.c5±]

45...a4 46.Reb2 Qb5

[46...Nxe4? 47.Qe1+-]

47.Qf1 The presence of the knight on

d3 (rather than a bishop, see the previous note) limits Black's options. So it seems that White is the one seeking a way to make progress. **47...Rc8 48.Qd1!? Rb8 0.85/18**

[48...Be7= 0.17/22]

49.Nc1!± Bxd1 3.49/18 Not good.

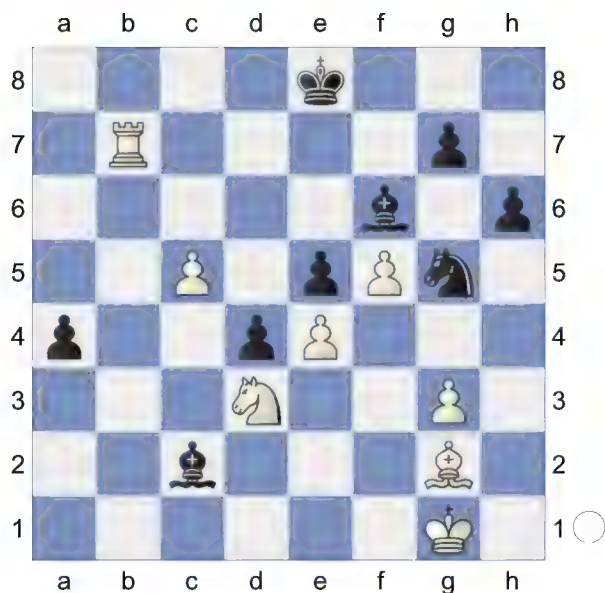
[However 49...Qxc5 50.Nxb3 axb3 51.Rxb3 looks prospectless for Black.]

[49...Qxc5± 0.93/26 50.Nxb3 axb3 51.Rxb3 Rf8]

50.Rxb5+- Rxb5 51.Rxb5 Kf8 52.Rb7 The c-pawn is going to be more dangerous than the a-pawn, although having the only rook helps! **52...Ke8 53.Nd3? 1.37/18**

[53.c6+- 3.95/22 Threatens to win with Rb8+. Kd8 54.Bf1]

53...Bc2±



54.c6? 0.01/19 Bxd3= 55.Rb8+ Ke7! 56.c7 Ba6

[56...Nxe4 57.c8Q (57.c8B? Nxc3 58.Kf2 Nxf5+-) 57...Kd6 58.Rb6+ Ke7 59.Re6+ Kf7 60.Qe8#]

57.c8Q The board is on fire. **57...Bxc8 58.Rxc8** Endgame. Ter Sahakyan has noticed that the a-pawn is going to drop.

KRB-KBN 58...Kd6 0.72/25

[58...Kd7= 0.15/22 59.Ra8 Kc6]

59.Kf2±

[59.Ra8 Kc5 60.Rxa4 Kb5]

59...a3 1.20/24

[Δ59...Nf7 0.75/24 60.Kf3 (60.Ra8 Nd8+-) 60...Nd8]

60.Ra8 Kc5 61.Rxa3 Kb4 62.Ra7 Kc5 63.Ke2 Kb6 64.Ra1 There is no immediate breakthrough, so White will have to think something up on the light squares. This will involve improving all his pieces one after another. **64...Nf7 65.Kd3 Nd6 66.Rb1+ Kc5 67.Bf3 Nb5 68.Bh5 Nc3 69.Rb2 Na4 70.Rb1 Kd6 71.Bf3 Kc6 72.Rc1+ Kb5 73.Rb1+ Kc6 74.Rb4 Nc5+ 75.Kc4! Nd7 1.68/23**

[75...Nb7± 0.87/26 76.Bd1 Nd6+ 77.Kd3 Kc5]

76.Bh5+- Nb6+ 77.Kd3 0.87/22

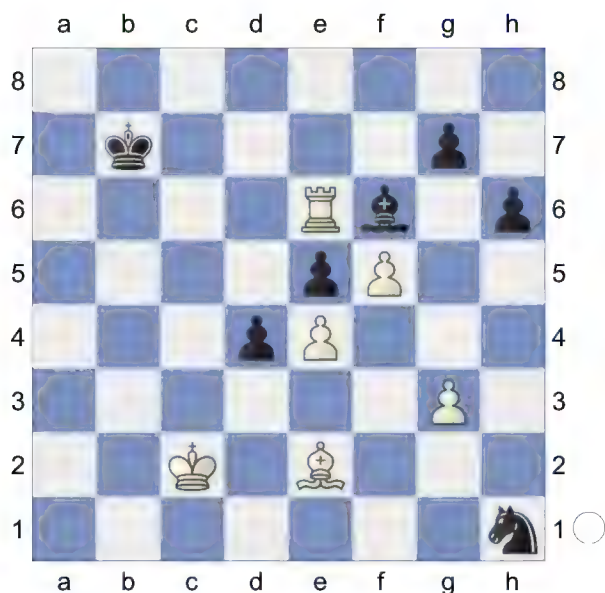
[White should play 77.Kb3!+- 1.69/30]

77...Kc5± 78.Rb1 Na4 79.Be8 Finally the bishop is ready to take on a more active role, thus limiting Black's knight to a certain extent. **79...Nc3 80.Ra1 Kb4 81.Bc6 Kc5 82.Bd5!? Kb4**

[82...Nxd5? 3.92/37 82...Kb4 0.50 makes life easy for White after 83.Ra5+]

83.Ra8 Nd1 84.Rb8+ Kc5 85.Rc8+ Kb4 86.Rc4+ Kb5 There is no apparent Zugzwang and no pawn breaks available, so White will need all three pieces to squeeze away at Black's king. This takes time, indeed, lots of time! **87.Rc2 Dodge Nb2+ 87...Bg5 88.Rc7 Strongly threatening Rb7+. 88...Bf6! 89.Rb7+ Kc5 90.Rb1 Nf2+ 91.Ke2 Ng4 92.Bb3 Bg5 93.Bc2 Kc4 94.Rb7 Bf6! 95.Rc7+ Kb5 96.Bd3+ Kb6 97.Rd7 Ne3 98.Kd2 Kc6 99.Ra7 Ng4**

100.Kc2 White is much more active.
100...Nf2 101.Ra1 Bg5 102.Ra6+ Kb7! 103.Re6 Bf6! 104.Be2 Nh1
 [104...Nxe4?? 6.03/23 104...Nh3 0.53 105.Bf3]



White stays focused until the end.
105.g4! It was 44 moves since the last pawn move, so it was about time! Now he has another 50 moves to try and make further inroads. **105...Nf2 106.Bf3 Kc7 1.48/27**

[Better is 106...Kc8 0.87/23]

107.Ra6 Be7

[More natural is 107...Kb7]

108.Ra7+ Kd6 109.Kb3 Bf6 110.Kc4
 The king is advancing up the board. This finally feels like progress. **110...Kc6 2.28/27**

[Δ110...d3 1.85/24]

111.Ra6+- Kb7 112.Ra2 Nh3 113.Bg2 Nf4 114.Bf1 Kb6 115.Ra1 Be7 116.Ra8 Kb7 2.37/25

[116...Bf6± 1.42/24 117.Rf8 h5]

117.Ra5 Bf6 3.28/25

[117...Kc6 2.26/26 was worth a try.

118.Rxe5 Bf6 119.Rc5+ Kd6]

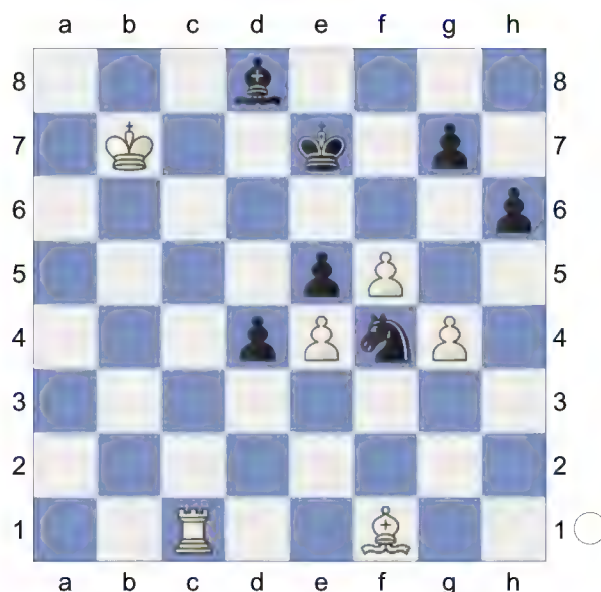
118.Kb5 Be7 119.Ra2

[Not 119.Kc4 Bf6 120.Kb4 Be7+ 121.Kb3 Bd6±]

119...Bf6 120.Ra1 Kc7 121.Rc1+ Kd6 122.Kb6 Bd8+ 123.Kb7 Ke7?! 2.49/19

[Better is 123...Bf6! 124.Rc6+ (124.Kc8!? 0.78/23 124.Rc6+ 2.22) 124...Ke7 125.Bc4 Black must now prevent Kc7. Kd7 2.65/22 (125...h5 1.96/22 might work better.) 126.Bb5+- Intending Re6+ and mate. Ke7 127.Kc7 and White probes away, but hasn't found a chink in the armour... yet!]

[123...Ba5 1.86/23 keeps fighting. 124.Rc6+ Ke7]



124.Kc8! Black is now too tangled and soon drops the e-pawn. **124...Ke8 125.Bb5+ Ke7 126.Rc5 Bb6**

[After 126...Kd6? 6.63/23 126...Ba5 3.05 127.Rc6+ Ke7 128.Ra6 Black is in Zugzwang. Prevents Ba5.]

127.Rxe5+ For the record, it was 66 moves since White last captured a pawn! **127...Kd6 5.47/22**

[127...Kf6 3.88/22 was necessary. 128.Re8 Bc5 129.e5+ Kg5]

128.Re8 d3 129.e5+ White is clearly

winning. 129...Kd5 130.f6 gxf6
131.exf6 d2 A race, but one that Black
will not win. 132.Ba4 Bc5 133.Kd7!

[Less clear is 133.f7 Ng6 134.Bb3+
Kd4 135.Kd7 Nf8+ as White's king
doesn't have an easy route to the
kingside.]

133...Ng6 6.60/20 The f8-square is
covered, but Black's knight is not
comfortable here.

[133...h5 4.30/19 134.g5 h4]

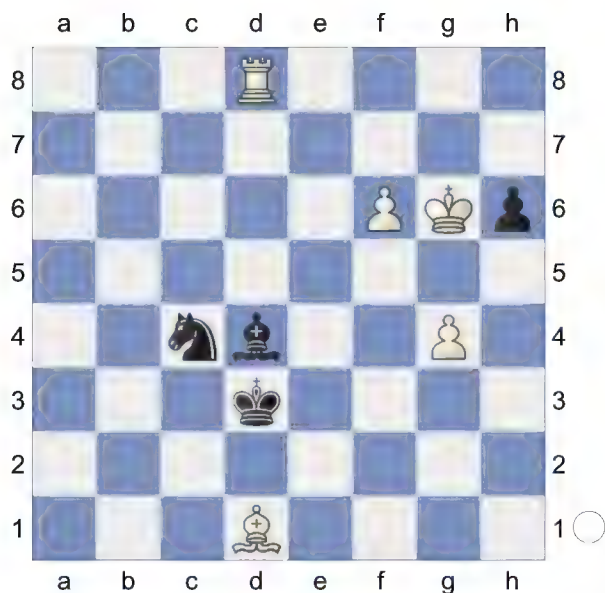
134.Bb3+ Kd4 135.Ke6 Nf4+ 136.Kf7
Now Kf7-g7xh6 is a threat. 136...Ng2
137.Bd1 Ne3 138.Bf3 Kd3

[138...d1Q goes down to 139.Bxd1
Nxd1 140.Rd8+]

139.Kg6 d1Q 140.Rd8+ Skewer

140...Bd4 141.Bxd1 Nc4

[141...Nxd1 142.f7]



142.Be2+! Time to call it a day!
Deflection.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/
Black=0.30

1-0

Willow, Jonah B B00 2409

Aravindh, Chithambaram VR 2607

9th Sunway Sitges 2022 (10.12) 22.12.22
[Daniel Fernandez, MH]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.c3 e6
Cloud engines are very happy with this
opening for Black, so we are likely to
see more of it. 5.Bd3 Keeping things as
clean as possible.

[Back in the early days of Covid,
Justin and I took a long look at 5.Nd2
f6 6.f4 g5 with complications that
need not be too daunting for Black.]

[5.Ne2 Nge7 6.Nf4 Qd7 7.Nd2 Bg6
8.Nb3 b6 9.a4 f6 10.a5 Bf7 11.Bb5
0-0-0 12.Nd3 B 00/09-N,N 2000]

5...Nge7 6.Ne2

[6.Bg5 Qd7 7.Ne2 h6 8.Bxe7 Nxe7
9.Ng3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 c5 11.0-0 h5
12.Nd2 Nc6 13.Ne2 0-0-0 14.a3 c4
15.Qc2 Na5 16.Nc1 Kb8 17.b4
cxb3 18.Ncxb3 Qa4 19.Rfb1 Rd7
20.Ra2 Be7 1-0 (45) 6. dxc6 bc6 7.e5
d5 8. d (2600)-Korsunsky, R (2495)
83/324 Wijk aan Zee 2002 (1)]

6...f6!

[6...h5 immediately was tried by no
less than the world champion in an
online rapid game: Aronian, L-Carlsen,
M INT 2021, but it does look like the
weakened dark squares are likely to
prove an issue for Black after a move
like 7.Bg5]

7.f4 h5N

[7...Qd7 8.Ng3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 h5
10.Nd2 0-0-0 11.b4 h4 12.Ne2 Nf5
13.Nb3 Rg8 14.Rb1 g5 15.b5 Nb8
16.fxg5 fxg5 17.Bd2 Qh7 18.a4 Rd7
19.Rc1 Rf7 20.a5 Ba3 21.Ra1 Rg8

22.Nbc1 (47) 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 and 3.e5-
N,N Bb2 23.Ra2 Bxc1 24.Bxc1 a6
25.c4 dxc4 26.Qxc4 Ng7 27.Nc3 h3
28.Bxg5 hxg2 29.Rxg2 axb5
30.Qxb5 Rf3 31.Ne2 Qc2 32.Qc5
Qe4 33.Rhg1 Na6 34.Qc4 Nf5
35.Qxe6+ Kb8 36.Qc4 Qb1+
37.Qc1 (47) 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 and 3.e5]

8.b3 A new move, and a very human one, but after this White isn't fighting for an edge.

[8.0-0 h4 9.Qc2 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Nf5
11.Nd2 was seen in Tiba,V-Zajarnyi,A
Mukachevo 2012 and here I guess
Black could have played the modest
Qd7 with a normal position where
White's edge is no greater than at the
start of the game.]

[8.b4!? is a decent try, but probably
more exuberant than strictly
necessary. Black can react in a
number of principled ways, such as a5
9.b5 Na7 10.a4 Nac8 with decent
control of the light squares, even if
not complete equality.]

8...Qd7 White has an edge. **9.Ba3**
-0.48/24

[9.Na3 Be4!? An idea worth bearing
in mind for Black. The slight risk of
eventually misplacing a pawn here
is balanced out by the bonus of
getting the f5-square earlier than
otherwise.]

[9.0-0= 0.28/26]

9...0-0-0 Black has equalised by this
point, since the Ba3 development isn't
all that relevant to the fight for the light
squares. **10.0-0 h4 11.Bxe7**

[The machine wants to play the rather
subdued 11.h3 -1.00/24 11.b4 -0.45
which is never a good sign.]

11...Nxe7

[11...Bxe7 12.Bxf5 exf5 13.Qd3

12.b4 Kb8

[12...fxe5 13.fxe5 g5!?→]

[12...h3!? 13.g3 Bg4

13.a4 fxe5

[13...g6 keeps more tension. 14.exf6
Ng8 15.f7 Nf6]

14.fxe5 g6 15.Bxf5 Nxf5 16.Qd3
**Prevents Ne3 16...Bh6 17.Nd2?!
-2.05/20**

[17.Nf4 is not that bad for White, but
the momentum remains with Black, of
course.]

[17.Nf4 -0.97/21 keeps fighting.]

17...Be3+!- 18.Kh1



Ng3+ 19.Nxg3 hxg3

[19...Bxd2 20.Nh5 (20.Ne2 Bg5±)
20...Rhx5 21.Qxd2

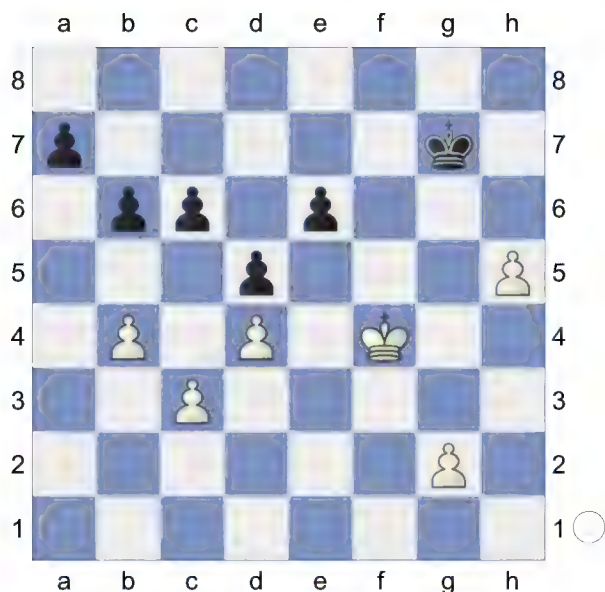
20.h3

[20.Qxe3 Rxh2+ 21.Kg1 Rh1+
22.Kxh1 Qh7+]

20...Bf2 At this point Black is objectively
winning, but after White's exchange
sacrifice interesting things started to
happen... **21.Nf3 Rdf8 22.Ra2**

(Diagram)

g5? -1.04/23 23.Raxf2



Kf7-+]

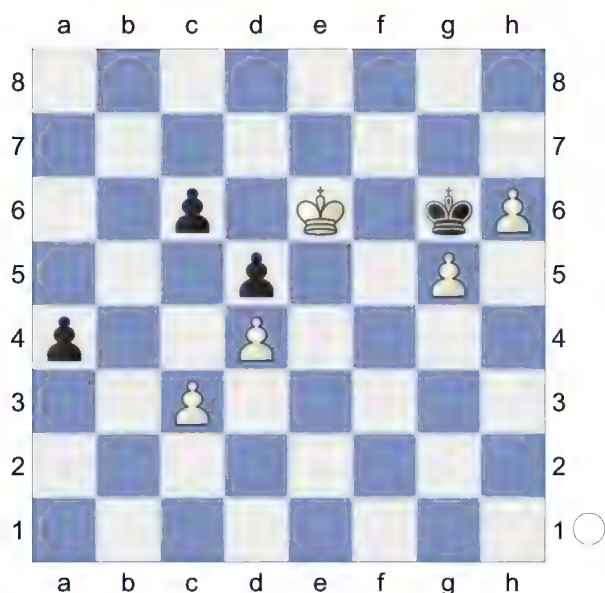
40...Kh6 41.Kf3

[Stronger than 41.Ke5 Kg5=]

41...Kg5 42.Ke3

[Avoid the trap 42.Kg3? a5 43.h6 Kxh6-+]

42...Kh6 43.Kf4 Kg7 44.g5 Kf7 45.h6 Kg6 46.Ke5 a5 47.bxa5 bxa5 48.Kxe6 a4



49.h7!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.30

1-0

B01

2552

□ Nasuta,Grzegorz

■ Domalchuk Jonasson,Aleksandr

Titled Tuesday intern op 16th Apr Late bl..
[Kitty Kat]

B01: Scandinavian Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Be2

[4.Nc3 Qa5 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.0-0 0-0-0 7.d4 a6 8.Ba4 Qh5 9.Ne4 b5 10.Ng3 Qg6 11.Bb3 Bg4 12.c3 h5 13.h3 h4 14.hxg4 hxg3 15.fxg3 e5 16.Nh4 Qd6 17.Rxf7 Nh6 18.Nf5 Nxf5 Gazola,V (2510)-12.♖h5 g6 13.X 13. ♔ d5 ♔ c7 (2390) 50/294 Badenweiler 1990]

4...Bg4

[4...Bf5 5.Nc3 Qd8 6.0-0 e6 7.Bb5 Bd6 8.d3 Nge7 9.h3 0-0 10.Ne4 a6 11.Ba4 Bg6 12.Bb3 Nf5 13.Bg5 1/2-1/2 Tay Chong Thai,T-8.dc5 dc5 9. ♕f4 63309 48/466 Palma de Mallorca 1989 (4)]

5.0-0N

[5.d4 0-0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.c4 Qa5+ 8.Bd2 Bb4 9.d5 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Bxd2+ 11.Nxd2 Nd4 12.0-0 f5 13.Nb3 Nxb3 14.axb3 Qb6 15.Qc1 e4 16.Be2 Nf6 17.Qc3 Nd7 18.b4 a6 19.c5 Qf6 (25) Chapter-Games Chapter 5 Game 2]

5...0-0-0 6.h3 Bh5 6...Bh5 has become a bit dusty these days.6...Lh5 ist ein bisschen altmodisch geworden. 7.Nc3 Qd7

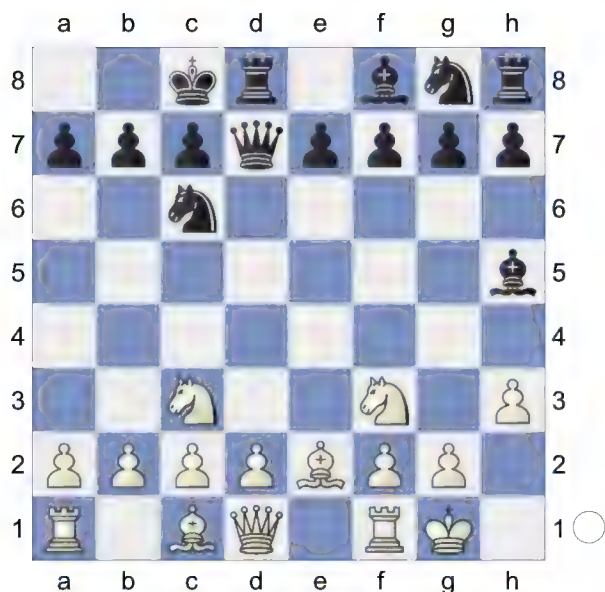
(Diagram)

8.b4 -0.07/21 Nxb4? 1.53/24

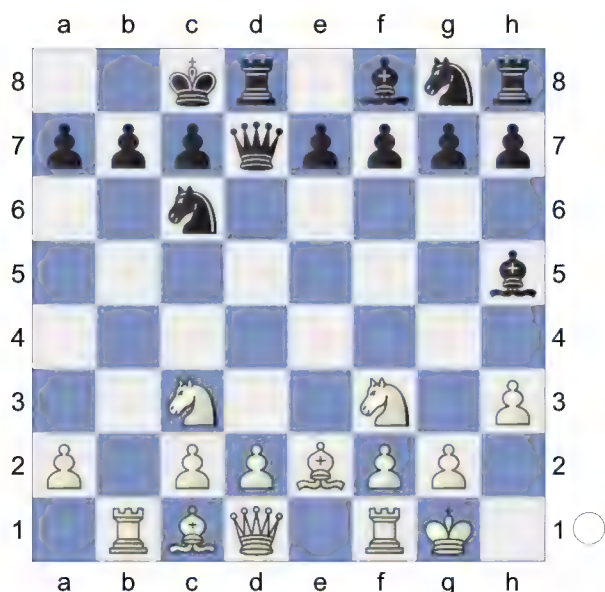
[8...Nf6= -0.07/21]

9.Rb1 1.17/20

[♞9.Ne5 1.53/24 Bxe2 10.Qxe2]



9...Nc6

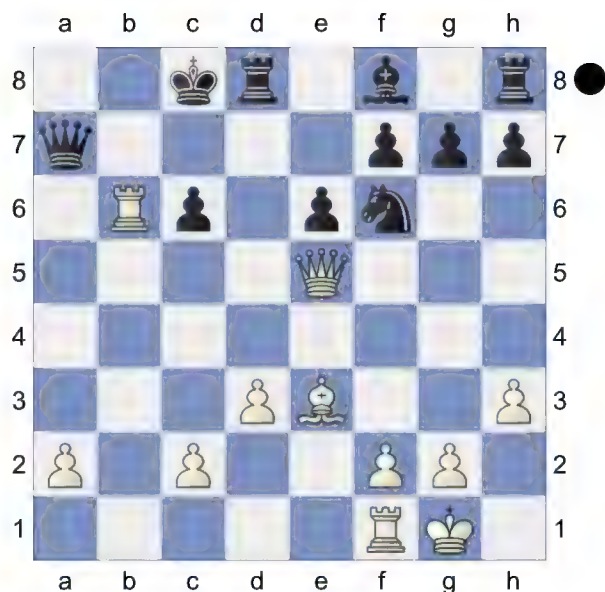


10.Ne5N -0.38/22 **Bxe2** 11.Qxe2
Nxe5 12.Qxe5 **Nf6** 13.d3 e6 14.Be3
 b6 Inhibits Qa5. 15.Nb5 -1.08/23
 [15.a4 -0.45/19]
 15...c6! 16.Nxa7+ Qxa7 17.Rxb6

(Diagram)

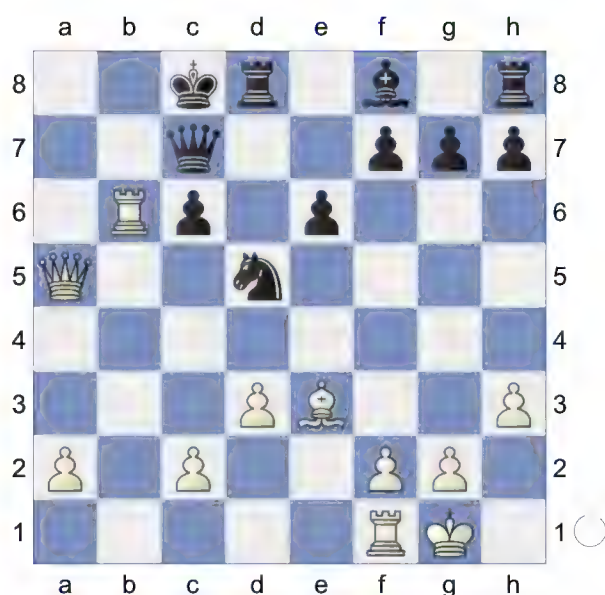
Qc7 1.09/20

[17...Qxa2? too greedy. 18.Rxc6+
 Kd7 19.Qb5+-]
 [17...Qa8! -0.82/21 keeps the



pressure on. ...Nd7! would now be
 deadly. 18.Qf4 Bd6 (18...Qxa2?
 19.Rb8+ Kd7 20.Rxd8+ Kxd8
 21.Bb6+ Ke7 22.Qc7+
 Skewer, Double Attack Nd7 23.Qd8+
 Kd6 24.Bc7+ Deflection Kc5
 25.Qxd7+-)]

18.Qa5± Strongly threatening Qa6+.
 White is more active. 18...Nd5? 4.08/27
 [18...Kd7± 1.29/18 was worth a try.]



This move loses the game for Black.
19.Qa6+!+- Kd7 aiming for ...Rb8!

20.Rb7 Pin 20...Bd6 21.Rxc7+ Nxc7
22.Qc4 Ra8 23.Bd4 f6 24.Re1 Rhb8
25.Bc3 Inhibits Rb4. 25...Rb5 26.a4
Rc5 27.Qb3 Kc8 28.Bb4 Rb8 29.Qa3
Re5 30.Bxd6

[Not 30.Rxe5 Bxb4 31.Qa1 fxe5±]
30...Rxe1+ 31.Kh2 Rb7 32.Qc3 Reb1
33.Qxc6 R1b6 34.Qc5 And now Bxc7
would win. 34...Ra6 35.Bg3 Black must
now prevent Qf8+. 35...Kd7 36.c3 e5
37.d4 Rc6 38.Qa3 e4 6.28/18

[△38...Rb8 4.17/18 39.dxe5 f5
40.e6+ Decoy Kxe6 41.Qa2+ Kf6]

39.d5 Nxd5 40.Qf8

[But not 40.c4 Ne7 41.a5 Nf5+-]

40...Nxc3? 10.05/19

[40...g5 3.51/21 41.c4 Ne7]

41.Qxg7+ White is clearly winning.

41...Kc8 42.Qh8+ Kd7 43.Qxh7+ Kc8

44.Qg8+ Kd7 45.h4 Rc8 46.Qf7+ Kc6

47.Qe6+ Kc5 48.Qxc8+ Kb6 49.Qxc3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/
Black=0.54

1-0

□ Blomqvist,Erik

B08

2506

■ Nepomniachtchi,Ian

2710

EU-Cup 30th Bilbao (5.1)

18.09.2014

[Moskalenko,Vi, MH]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3!?

Here White's plan is more traditional. He

wants to slowly prepare c2-c4. 4...g6!?

Black insists that White plays ♟xf6. 5.d5

Nb8!? 6.h3 Bg7 7.Be2

[7.Bc4 0-0 8.0-0 e5 9.dxe6 Bxe6

10.Bb3 Nc6 11.Re1 Re8 12.Bf4]

7...0-0 8.0-0 e5 9.dxe6

[9.Bg5!? h6 would be similar to the

game (9...Nbd7 10.Nd2; 9...Qe8

10.Nd2 a6 11.a4) 10.Be3
transposes again to part 3. Nh5
see part 3 (10...Nfd7 11.Qd2 Kh7
12.Ne1 f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.f3 Nf6
15.g4) 11.Re1 Nf4 (11...Nd7
12.Bf1) 12.Bf1 Nd7 (12...f5 13.Bxf4
exf4 14.e5) 13.g3 Nh5 14.Nd2]

9...Bxe6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Nc6

12.Qd2 White has an edge. 12...Kh7

13.Nd4

[13.Rad1 Re8 14.Rfe1 a6
(△14...Bd7!? 15.Bd3) 15.Bf1
0-1 (43) Glud,J (2526)-Anton Guijarro,
D (2630) Baku 2016]

13...Nxd4

[13...Bd7 0.63/19 13...Nxd4 0.27
14.f4 Re8 15.Bf3]

14.Bxd4 d5

[14...c5 15.Be3 d5 16.Bxc5
(16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Qxd5)
16...Nxe4 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Qe3
Re8]

[14...c5 simplifies 15.Be3 d5
16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Qxd5
18.Qxd5 Bxd5 19.Rfd1 Rfd8]

15.exd5 Nxd5↑ 16.Bxg7 Kxg7

17.Ne4? Threatening Bf3. 17...Bf5
0.60/23

[17...Qe7! 18.c4 Nb4 0.47/22
(18...Nf6= 0.03/24 deserves
consideration. 19.Qc3 Rae8)
19.Qc3+ f6]

[17...Qe7!= 0.21/22]

18.Ng3± Be6 19.Bf3 c6! 20.Ne4

Wards off Qf6 20...Bf5! 21.Ng3 Be6

22.Ne4 Inhibits Qf6.

[22.Rad1 Qe7 23.Bxd5 Bxd5
(23...cxd5 24.c3) 24.c4 Be6
25.Ne4]

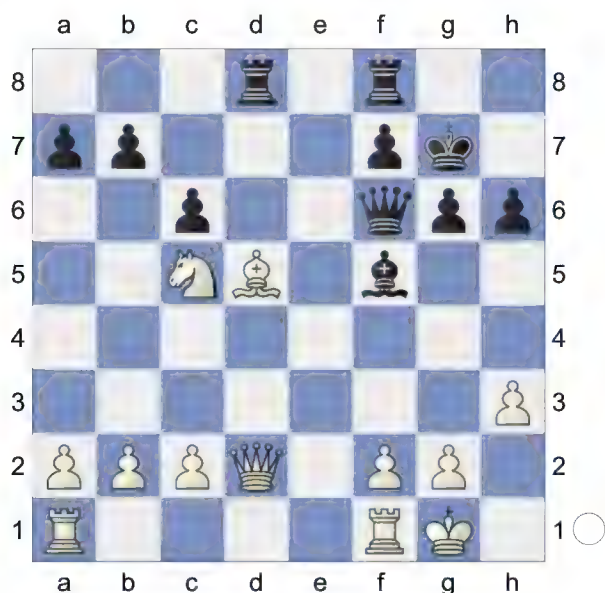
22...Bf5! 23.Nc5 Qf6

[23...Qb6 24.Qd4+ Kg8 25.Bxd5
cxd5]

[23...b6 24.Nb3 (24.Nb7 Qd7 25.c4

Be6! 26.cxd5 cxd5) 24...Qf6 25.Nd4 Rad8]

24.Bxd5 Rad8



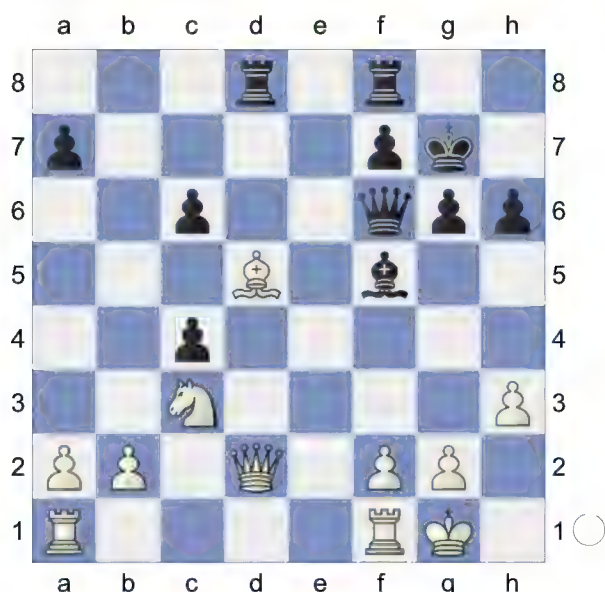
Pin 25.c4 b6 26.Na4 next Nc3! is good for White.

[26.Na6= Be6 (26...b5!?) 27.Nc7 Rd7 28.Rfe1 cxd5 29.Nxe6+ fxe6]
[26.Nb7 Rd7 27.c5 cxd5-+]

26...b5!

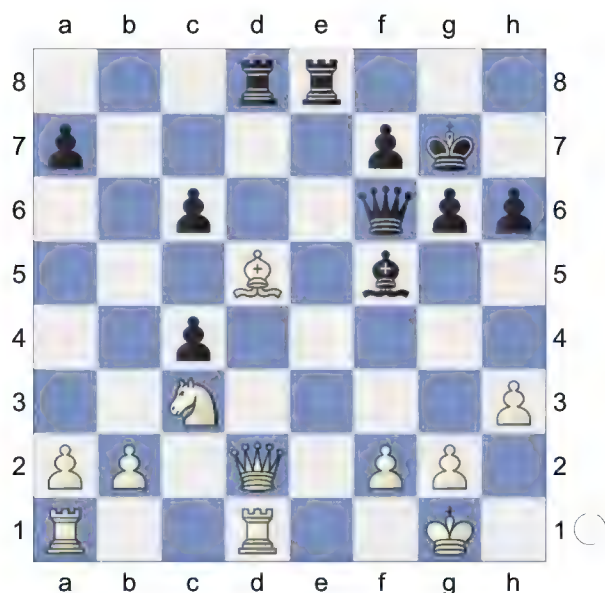
[Don't play 26...cxd5?! 27.cxd5 Rd7 28.Nc3±]

27.Nc3 bxc4



28.Rfd1! Rfe8

[28...cxd5 29.Nxd5 Qe5 30.f4 Qb8 31.Qc3+ f6]



29.Qc1! cxd5 30.Nxd5 Discovered Attack 30...Qe5 31.f4 Qe6 32.Qxc4 h5! 33.Qc3+

[33.Qc5]

33...Kh6 34.Qc5 Rc8 35.Qf2

[35.Qxa7? perishes. Rc2 36.Qa3 h4-+]

35...Rc2 36.Rd2 Rxd2 37.Qxd2 Qe2 38.Qc3 Qd3

[38...Bc8]

39.Qxd3N

[39.Ne7 looks sharper. a5 40.Qe5 Be6 41.Re1]

39...Bxd3= Endgame. KRB-KRN

40.Rd1 Bf5 A) Alternatively 41.Kf2!?

Wards off Re2+ 41...Re4 42.Kf3 Ra4

43.Nc3= 0-1 (51) Kiewra,K (2429)-

Stremavicius,T (2468) chess.com INT

2017 B) Previously 43...Rb4 44.g4

[44.b3]

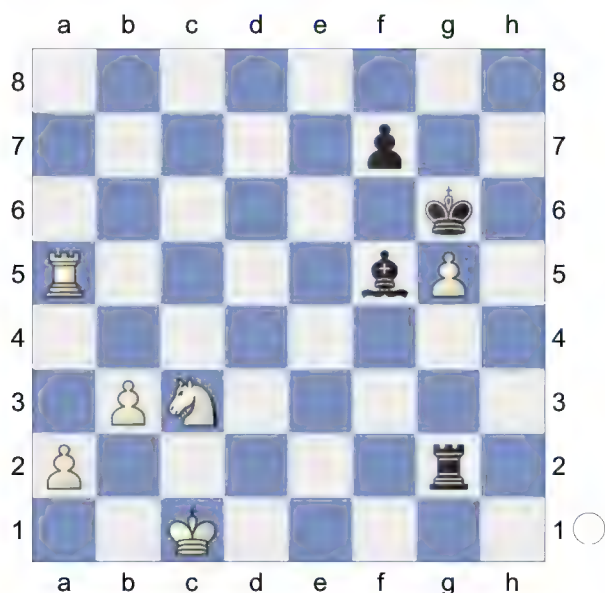
44...Bc8 45.b3 Bb7+ 1.65/22

[45...g5± 0.34/24]

46.Ke3+- hxg4 47.hxg4 Threatens to win with g5+. 47...g5 48.Rd4 0.01/20

[48.Rd6+ Kg7 49.fxg5 Strongly

threatening Rd4. Rxc4 50.Rd7 Rg3+ (50...Rb4 51.Na4!? looks playable for Black) 51.Kd2 Rg2+ 52.Kc1 Bc8= 2.12/21 ½-½ (45) Gelfand,B (2759)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2714) Sochi 2014 (Δ52...Bf3 1.72/22) An interesting alternative is 53.Rxa7+- Black must now prevent b4. Bf5 ...Rc2+ is the strong threat. 54.Ra5 Kg6 2.89/20 (54...Bg6± 1.46/20 was called for.)



55.Nd5!]

[48.Rd6+± 1.60/23 Kg7 49.fxc5]

48...Rxd4= Remove Defender 49.Kxd4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise) . Sensor Board Error (Ke4/e5)?

[49.Kxd4 Hoping for Ke5. gxf4 And now ...Kg5 would win. 50.Ne4]

0-1

□ **Rublevsky,Sergei** **B00 2683**
 ■ **Usmanov,Vasily** **2455**
 St.Petersburg Rapid 2017 (6.10) 27.8.17
 [N McDonald,MH]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

RR: 'Inf 72/(98)' CHAPTER 1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3

The most popular reply to the Nimzowitsch. White thinks that someone who opens 1...Nc6 is unlikely to know everything about the Spanish Game. He therefore leaves the way open for 2...e5, hoping instead to get a concession from Black such as 2...d6 or 2...e6. But as we have seen on ChessPub such lines are by no means easy to refute. **2...d6** Keeping things in the territory of this part of the website. **3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.Be3** Other moves are considered on ChessPub, but this seems the most popular. **5...e6** Also possible is

[5...a6 to stop White's next move.]

[There are eight games by Mestrovic with 5...e5 in the archives.]

6.Bb5N 0.43/23 Alternatively

[6.h3 Bh5 1.61/20 (6...Bxf3± 0.76/22 was worth a try. 7.Qxf3 a6)

A) Also much examined on here is **7.d5** much examined. exd5 8.exd5 Ne5 9.g4 Bg6 10.Bb5+ Ned7 11.Qe2 Be7 12.h4 h5 13.g5 Ng4 14.0-0-0 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 0-0 16.Rhe1 Re8 17.Nd4 Chapter 7 2012;

B) **7.d5+- 1.61/20;**

C) **7.g4** Bg6 8.d5 Ne7 (8...exd5 9.exd5 Nb4 10.Bb5+ c6 11.dxc6 Nxc6 12.Nd4 Nimzowitsch G1: 2... d6-G1: 2...d6 #5) 9.Nd4 exd5 10.exd5 Nexd5 11.Nxd5 Nxd5

12.Bb5+ Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-
G1: 2...d6 #8;

D) 7.Bb5 0.80/21 was played in David-Rogers in the archives. Now I'd like to know if Usmanov's move in the game is still playable despite the insertion of h2-h3 and Bh5. Unfortunately it seems not: 7...d5?± (Instead 7...a6 1.03/19 7...d5 0.66 is the David game. Also possible is; 7...Nd7) 8.exd5! exd5 1.08/20 (Or 8...Nxd5 9.Nxd5 exd5 10.g4 Bg6 11.Ne5 Bd6 12.Nxc6 Qd7 13.Nxa7! c6 14.Nxc6! bxc6 15.Bd3 Black will gain some pressure due to White's loose structure, but surely not enough for two pawns.; 8...Nxd5± 0.66/21 9.Nxd5 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Qxd5 11.Qxd5 exd5) 9.g4± Bg6 10.Ne5 Bb4! 11.Nxc6 Bxc3+! 12.bxc3 Qd7 13.Nxa7! c6 14.Nxc6! bxc6 15.Bd3! Ne4 16.Bxe4 Bxe4 17.f3 Bg6 18.0-0 again White is a bit ragged, but two pawns seems too big an investment for Black.]

[6.d5± 0.93/22 exd5 7.exd5]
[6.Be2 Be7 7.d5 exd5 8.exd5 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Ne5 10.Be2 a6 11.h3 0-0 12.Qd2 b5 13.a3 Re8 14.0-0 Nfd7 15.b3 Szieberth,A (2395)-Kummer,H (2380) Oberwart 1997]

6...d5 A radical change of approach. Usmanov decides he wants a type of French Exchange pawn structure. Normally this is a bit boring, but here the mutual pins on the knights on c6 and f3 and the chance to add to the tension with Bb4 make it a lively affair. Still, Black is taking a risk by relinquishing his pawn control of e5. If he isn't careful he'll be cut down by a Ne5 move. **7.exd5** Black has plenty of activity after

[7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Bb4 etc.]

7...exd5 Here

[7...Nxd5 might be worth investigating. 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 a6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.0-0 and White has a small plus due to the doubled pawns.]

8.h3 White is slightly better. **8...Bd7** After this retreat the d5 pawn becomes a potential target.

[Dangerous for Black is 8...Bh5 1.18/21 8...Bd7 0.67 9.g4 Bg6 10.Ne5 0.55/21 or (10.Qe2! etc.; 10.Qe2!± 0.99/22)]

[It seems that he has to submit to 8...Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Bb4 10.0-0 0-0 White has a small but comfortable edge thanks to his bishop pair.]

9.Ne5? 0.26/22

[The simple 9.0-0 is awkward for Black as he is hampered by the need to keep the d5 pawn defended. If he moves his bishop from d7 to achieve this then he can be hit by Ne5. For example. Strongly threatening Bg5. Bb4 1.19/20 (Or 9...Be7 10.Bg5; ♠9...a6 0.75/26) 10.Bg5± Hoping for Nxd5. Bxc3 11.bxc3 0-0 12.Bd3 with a good game for White.]

[White should try 9.0-0± 0.79/25]

9...Be7? 0.78/21

[Black can escape the pressure with 9...Bb4! 10.0-0 And now Bg5 would win. 0-0 as 11.Bg5 0.00/28 misses the mark after (11.Nxd7± 0.36/23 Qxd7 12.Ne2) 11...Nxe5= 12.dxe5 Bxc3 13.exf6 Bxb5 14.fxg7 Qxg5 15.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 16.bxc3 Bxf1 17.Kxf1 Re8 with equal chances.]
[9...Bb4!= 0.26/22]

10.Qf3!± Now White is in control again. **10...0-0 1.35/20**

[♠10...Bb4 0.80/22]

11.0-0-0!

[11.Nxd5?! Nxd5 12.Qxd5 Nxe5
13.Qxe5 Bd6±]

11...a6 12.Bd3 0.83/21

[Also strong is 12.Ba4]

[Better is 12.Bxc6 1.29/22 Bxc6
13.Rhe1]

12...Be6 13.g4 Rublevsky is able to
build up an attack on the kingside more
powerful than Black's strivings on the
other wing. **13...Nb4 14.Bf5 c5**
15.dxc5 Qa5 2.75/21

[15...Nc6± 1.29/20]

16.a3+- Nc6 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.Bd4
Nd7 19.Ne2 0.96/19

[White should play 19.Qe3!+- 1.79/21
Nxc5 20.Bxe6 fxe6 (20...Nxe6
21.Bb6± Trapped Piece) 21.Rhe1]

19...Rab8 2.16/18

[19...Rfe8± 0.96/19 might work
better.]

20.Nf4! Bg5 21.h4 Bxf5 22.hxg5?
0.52/19

[The right way to continue the attack
was 22.gxf5! Bf6 (Or 22...Bh6
23.Rhg1 when 24.Bxg7 is already a
threat.) 23.Bxf6 Nxf6 24.Rhg1
and the g7 point is looking very
fragile.]

[22.gxf5+- 2.14/25 Bf6 23.Bxf6 Nxf6
24.Rhg1 Qxc5 25.Qg3]

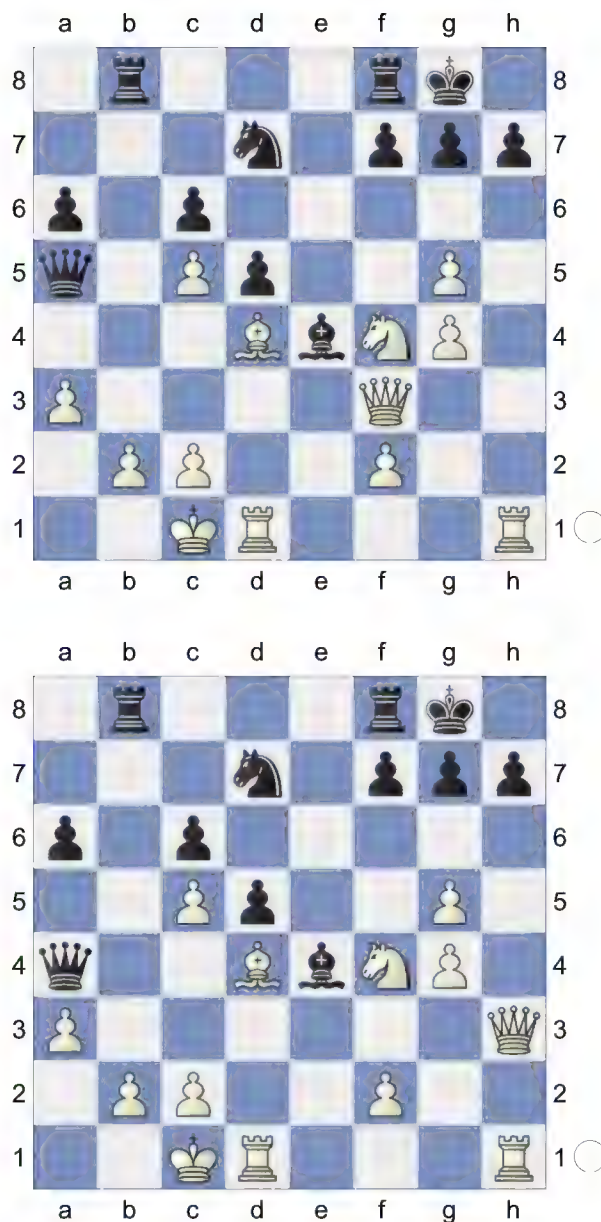
22...Be4±

(Diagram)

23.Qh3 Qa4!

(Diagram)

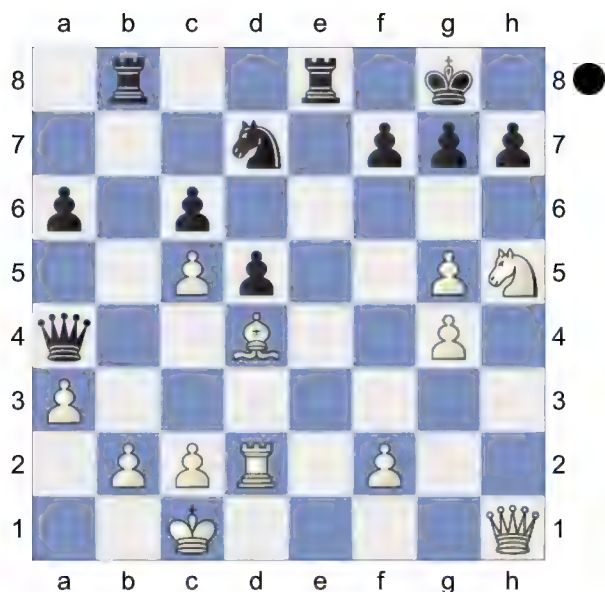
24.Rd2 -1.35/18 The last chance for
White to stay in command of the position
is to sacrifice a couple of pawns with
24...Bxh1± 25.Qxh1 Rfe8→



Planning 26...Re4. Black is out for blood.
Really sharp! **26.f3 -1.98/24**
Black's centralisation is more important
than the wing attack after. Against Re4
[26.Nh5

(Diagram)

Re4! 27.Bxg7 Rbe8]
[26.Nh5± -1.24/23 Re4 27.Bxg7]
26...Nxc5! -1.42/21
[26...Qc4+- -1.98/24 27.Nh5 Re3
(27...Nxc5 28.Bxg7 Nd7 29.Kb1-+)]



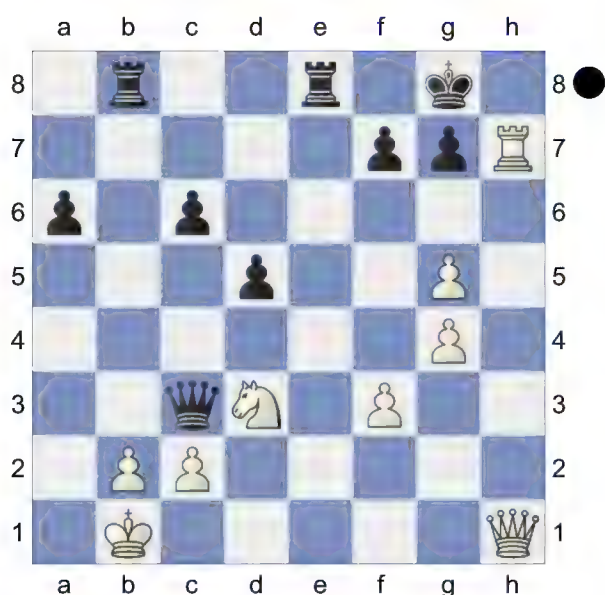
27.Kb1? -4.10/20 Or

[27.Bxc5?? -3.91/18 27.Nh5 -1.09 Qxf4]

[27.Nh5? -1.42/21 Ne6 28.Be5]

27...Qxa3+ 28.Rh2 Na4 Black is clearly winning. 29.Nd3 Nc3+ 30.Bxc3 Qxc3 31.Rxh7 -10.05/22

[31.Qc1 -5.16/20]



It looks as if White has counterplay with his threat of mate, but now comes a killer blow. 31...Rxb2+!! In fact. Deflection 32.Nxb2 Re1+ 33.Nd1

Rxh1 White resigned as he is too much material down after.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/ Black=0.34

[33...Rxh1 34.Rxh1 Qxf3]

0-1

B00

□ Tan,Justin

2496

■ Fernandez,Daniel

2466

Nimzowitsch Training Game 2 17.07.20

[D Fernandez,MH]

Rapid 20min+10sec 1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5! Bf5! 4.c3 e6 5.Nd2!

Justin suggested that this was joint best in his annotations to Anand-Rapport, Bundesliga 2018 (June 2020 update.)

[5.Bd3?! is seen in the Leela-Stockfish game from this month.]

[Justin checks two games with the equally interesting 5.Be2!?]

5...f6 6.f4 g5! 7.Qh5+

[7.Bb5!? is more intuitive but leads to a mess after the obvious gxf4 .]

7...Kd7! Of course it would be great for my reputation as a maverick if this equalised, but it doesn't quite. Still, I think it is the most interesting way for Black to play.

[To summarise Justin's conclusions, after 7...Bg6 8.Qh3 Qd7 9.Ngf3 gxf4 10.Bb5 0-0-0 11.Nh4! White will soon regain the pawn with Nb3 or Ndf3, and with his extra space he should have a persistent small plus.]

8.Ndf3!? Bg6

[8...gxf4 9.Bxf4± White will always have a safe edge here due to his control of the e5-square.]

9.Qh3 Bf5!

[9...a6?! I considered this provocation to be interesting for a while, but the novelty soon faded. 10.Ne2 (Possibly White also gets a small plus by forcing matters in the centre immediately. Especially since Black needs to take some time to regain the pawn, and (even when he does) the central majority can't play a huge role with so many pieces still on the board. 10.fxg5 fxe5 11.Nxe5+ Nxe5 12.dxe5 Ne7 13.Nf3 c5 14.Be2 Bg7 15.0-0 Qc7±)

A) 10...h6?! 11.Ng3! gxf4 (11...h5 12.fxg5 fxe5 13.Nh4±) 12.Bxf4 Bg7 13.0-0-0±;

B) 10...Qe8 Now White also has free use of the d4-square. But what choice was there? 11.fxg5 fxe5 12.dxe5 h6 (12...Bf5 13.Qg3 doesn't really do anything about Black's issues.; 12...Bc5 13.Ned4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.cxd4 Ne7; 12...Bg7 13.Nf4! Bf5 14.g4 Be4 Black is in big trouble after any normal move, like 15.Bd3±; 12...Be4!? appeals to me as a Caro player but I don't seriously imagine it dents the line.) 13.Ned4! Nxd4 14.Nxd4! c5 15.Nf3 Black's in a sort of catch-22 where to prove compensation he must blast open the centre, but that will also expose his king. I tried many things here and one illustrative line is as follows: Ne7 16.Be2 Bg7 17.gxh6 Nf5 18.g4 Bxh6 19.Bxh6 Rxh6 20.Qf1 Ne3 21.Bb5+!! axb5 22.Qxb5+ Kc7 23.Qxc5+ Qc6 24.Qxe3±]

10.g4 Be4

[10...Bg6?? 11.f5 Bf7 12.exf6+-]

11.Ne2 fxe5! Black would love to keep

tension on the kingside but it's not possible to reconcile that with the need to develop.

[Justin notes that 11...gxf4 12.Nxf4 fxe5 13.Nxe6!± is disastrous for Black.]

12.fxe5

[12.f5!? This seems a bit too ingenious, one has to wonder whether it's really necessary?! exd4 13.Bxg5 Be7 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 (14...Ngxe7 15.Nexd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4) 15.fxe6+ Kc8 16.Bg2 dxc3 17.Nxc3 Qc5∞]

12...Be7 13.Rg1 h5 14.Nd2

After analysing this position for a while I came to the conclusion that Black has to force the kingside open, which means in most cases not playing ...h4 and not allowing White to take on h5 with a piece. Otherwise he just ends up with less space everywhere and White can play various whole-board plans.

14...Bg6! ?N

[For this reason 14...Bc2 15.Ng3 Nh6 16.Nxh5± is unsatisfactory.]

[Likewise 14...Bh7 15.Qxh5± and there are no tactical tricks against the queen.]

15.Nb3! ?

[15.Ng3! A similar idea but to my mind a bit more flexible. Nh6 16.gxh5 Nf5

A) 17.Nb3 Qe8∞ transposes to the game, which is also quite decent for White.;

B) The human eye is drawn to 17.Bd3 but Black has an elegant tactic: Ne3 18.Nge4 (18.Ngf1 Bxd3 19.Nxe3 Qe8∞ is at least fine for Black.) 18...Nf5! White doesn't have a good way to decline the repetition. 19.Nf6+!? (19.Nxg5? Rxh5 20.Bxf5! exf5!!?)

19...Bxf6 20.exf6 Rxh5 21.Qf1 Ne3 (21...Qxf6 also looks fine.) 22.Qe2 Bxd3 23.Qxe3 Bf5±;

C) 17.Nf3!? Nxc3 18.Qxg3 Rxh5 19.Bxg5

Here I couldn't find anything better than heading for various rook and minor piece endgames where White is for choice due to the outside passed pawn, but in a human game might well still overpress and lose.

(Taking on g5 with the other piece allows an exchange sacrifice for fair compensation: 19.Be2 Qh8 20.Nxc5 Rxh2 21.Nf3 Rxe2+ 22.Kxe2 Bh5 and despite the initially passive pieces Black drums up an attack quite quickly. 23.Be3 Rf8 24.Raf1 Qh7 25.Kd2 Qe4∞; 19.h4 Qh8 20.Bxg5 Be4∞ is both good and consistent with the 19.Bxg5 line.) 19...Be4 (19...Bf5!/? 20.h4 Qh8 is another way to try and play for compensation) 20.Be2 Qh8 21.Bf6 Bxf6 22.exf6 Bxf3 (22...Qxf6 23.Ng5)

C1) 23.Bxf3!? is also possible. Rf5! (23...Rxh2 24.Bxd5! leads to a clearer plus for White.) 24.0-0-0 (24.Qg7+ Kd6! forces White to repeat or run into a counterattack) 24...Rf8 25.Kb1 (25.Qg7+ Kd8!± would also be too early the queen does good work on g3.) 25...Qxf6± White has some pressure here due to the weak pawn on e6, but arguably the presence of queens makes Black's job easier.;

C2) 23.Qxf3 Rh3 24.Rg7+ Qxg7 25.fxg7 Rxf3 26.Bxf3 Rg8 27.Kf2 Rxg7 28.h4±

Running the engine to some depth here indicates that the game should be a draw, but it does seem like Black is the one having to demonstrate that.]

[15.gxh5 Rxh5 16.Qg3 Nh6±]

15...Qe8!? Perhaps not bad as such (and we definitely got a very interesting game out of it!) but Black has other options here.

[The engine favours the slightly mysterious 15...Qf8 which perhaps generates some playable but unaesthetic attacking ideas on the kingside, such as ...Qh6.]

[15...h4!∞ Probably the most acceptable version of all the ...h4 lines. White's e2-knight is at a bit of a loose end and Black can play towards an eventual ...c5.]

[15...Nh6 16.gxh5 Nf5 17.Bxg5! Rxh5 18.Nc5+ Bxc5 19.Bxd8 Rxh3 20.Bxh3 Nxe5 21.Bxf5 Bxf5 22.Rg7+-]

16.Ng3 Nh6 17.gxh5 Nf5

[I rejected 17...g4 18.Qg2 Bxh5 on the grounds that White can obtain an edge without any particular rocket surgery, e.g. 19.Be2±]

18.Rg2!? Definitely a tricky move to face in a rapid game such as this, as it clearly indicates White has prepared!

[After the pedestrian 18.Bd2 a5 19.a4?! Black can use the inclusion of the a-pawn moves as follows: Nxc3 20.Qxg3 Bc2!±]

18...Nxc3?!

[Correct was 18...b6!= after which Black need never worry about Nc5+ again.]

19.Qxg3 Be4 20.Rg1?! Now Black gets a second chance to solve his remaining opening problems.

[The way to take advantage of Black's lapse is a surprising exchange sacrifice: 20.Be2! Bxg2 21.Qxg2 and if Rxh5 then 22.Bg4!!± hitting the d5-pawn!]

20...Rxh5 21.Be2 g4! Trying to liquidate the kingside pawns to claim equality. But of course there is more than a hint of tactical chaos under the surface now. **22.Bxg4 Na5!?** An incredible fighting continuation which arose more by accident than anything else.

[The computer indicates that 22...Nb4!? was also reasonable, with intriguing complications. 23.cxb4 Bh4 24.Nc5+ Kc6 25.Bxe6 Bxg3+ 26.Rxg3]

[My original intention was 22...Bh4!? but I miss-evaluated the position after 23.Nc5+ Kc8 24.Bxe6+ Kb8 25.Qxh4 Rxh4 26.Rg8 Qxg8 27.Bxg8 I thought White was threatening both Nd7 and Nxe4 and failed to notice that Ne7!= holds the fort admirably.]

23.Bxh5

[23.Nxa5 Bh4]

[23.Ke2 Nc4]

[23.Qf4 Nxb3 24.axb3 Rh7]

23...Qxh5 24.Nc5+?! Now the game calms down a bit just as the time situation was becoming critical.

[The move I expected was 24.Bg5!? which leads to a draw after best play. Nxb3 25.axb3 Bxg5! (The speculative 25...Rf8 intending 26.Bxe7 Rf3! fails to simply 26.h4!) 26.Qxg5 Qxh2= White can't castle and so it isn't surprising that best play here is allowing a perpetual check.]

24...Bxc5 25.dxc5 Nc4 26.Qg7+ Kc6

27.Qh6

[27.Qg4 Qxe5! (I had intended 27...Qxh2 28.Qxe6+ Nd6! which looks rather aesthetic, but it turns out Black is the one having to find a study-like draw after 29.Rg7 Qh4+ 30.Ke2 Bf3+!! with perpetual check.) 28.Bf4 Qf6± The attack continues and Black's king is quite safe on c6.]

27...Qxh6 28.Bxh6 Rh8 29.Bf4 Nxb2±

Here too Black has a slight advantage. All of White's pawns are isolated. **30.Bg3 Kxc5 31.Ke2 Kc4 32.Kd2 c5 33.Raf1 d4 34.cxd4 Kxd4?! Trying to set up ... Nc4+. At this point both players had under a minute and were playing on the 10 second increment. Which of course is no excuse for how the game ended!**

[34...cxd4± is more principled]

35.Rf4 Rd8? 36.Ke2?

[36.Re1! nets a piece.]

36...Nd3 37.Bf2+?!

[37.Rd1=]

37...Kxe5 38.Rg5+!! For sheer practical value! Black is much more than fine in case of ...Bf5, but alas I saw only the possibility of Bg3 and not that of Be3, and blundered mate in 1: **38...Kxf4??**

[38...Bf5 39.Ra4 Nxf2 40.Kxf2 Rd2+±]

39.Be3# A relatively high quality game in spite of the finish!

1-0

□ **Fernandez, Daniel**

B00

2466

■ **Tan, Justin**

2496

Nimzowitsch Training Game 1 17.07.2020

[Justin Tan, MH]

Rapid 20min+10sec

B00: Queen's

Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.c3 e6 5.Be2 f6 6.f4 g5 7.Bh5+ Kd7! 8.fxg5 White is slightly better. 8...fxe5 9.Nf3 h6 10.c4N I didn't consider this in my notes. The move gives Black a tonne of seemingly plausible options, which is why it's a serious practical try.

[10.g4 0.21/22 10.Nxe5+ 0.57 1/2-1/2 (199) Stockfish 20200407DC (3851)-LCZero v0. 24-sv-t60-3010 (3840) chess24.com 2020 [Justin Tan]]

[10.dxe5 hxc5 11.Bxc5 Be7 12.Bxe7 Nxc5 (12...Qxe7 13.g4)]

[10.Nxe5+!? Nxe5 11.dxe5= hxc5 12.g4 Rxc5 13.gxf5

A) 13...g4 14.fxe6+ Kc8 15.Bf4 Qh4+ 16.Ke2 g3 (16...Ne7 17.Rf1 Rf5 18.Bg3 Qh5 19.Nd2 b6 20.a4 a5 21.Qb3 Rxe5+ 22.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 23.Kd1 Kb7 24.Kc2 Nimzowitch'S Defense-2...d5) 17.Qxd5 Nf6 18.Qf3 g2 19.Rg1 Rf5 20.Bg3 Qh3 21.Qxg2 Qg4+ 22.Kd2 Bh6+ 23.Kc2 Rf3 24.Nd2 Qf5+ 25.Kb3 Qxe6+ 26.Nc4 Ne4 27.Be1 Nc5+ 28.Kc2 (37) Nimzowitch'S Defense-2...d5;

B) 13...Rh4 Nimzowitch'S Defense-2...d5]

10...Nge7 0.99/18

[10...e4? 1.55/17 10...dxc4 0.28 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Nh4+- 1.23/19 (12.Ne5+- 1.80/21 Nxe5 13.dxe5)]

[10...hxc5?! 11.cxd5 Nxd4 (11...exd5 1.66/20 11...Nxd4 0.49 12.0-0!) 12.dxe6+ Kc8 13.Nxd4 exd4 (13...Qxd4 0.72/21 13...exd4 0.27 14.Qxd4 exd4 15.0-0!±) 14.0-0 Nh6! 15.Nd2 and Black's position is very suspicious.]

[10...Kc8?! 11.cxd5! Qxd5 12.Nc3 Qc4 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Bb4 15.Bd2 0.46/19 (Better is 15.Be2± 0.87/20 Qh4+ 16.g3) 15...Ne7 16.gxh6 and I don't believe Black has sufficient compensation here. 16...Rd8 is obviously the move to consider but I am unconvinced.]

[It was perhaps a humanly reaction to the move 10.c4 to dismiss 10...dxc4 quite quickly. Nevertheless, it wasn't the logical reaction. This defence is the most forcing and therefore the most critical one. After 10...dxc4! 11.Nxe5+ Nxe5 12.dxe5+ Bd3 13.Nc3 it appears that the open f-file could remain unpleasant for a long while. Nonetheless, my engine suggests this is unclear still. Admittedly, the moves given are difficult to find. Kc8 14.Be2 Apparently, other moves give Black an advantage. (14.Bg4 -0.28/21 14.Be2 0.28 Kb8! 15.Bxe6 Qd4!)

A) 14...Qd4?? 1.25/21 14...a5 0.32 15.Qa4! c6 2.54/24 (15...Ne7± 1.36/19) 16.Bxd3+-

and Black is forced to recapture with the queen. Qxd3 17.Rf1+-;

B) 14...hxc5?! 15.Bxd3 cxd3 16.Qg4 Prevents Qd4.;

C) 14...a5! The only way to active the a-rook. It also means that when ...Bb4 comes, the bishop will be defended. 15.Rf1 hxc5 16.Bxd3 (16.Bxc5!? Be7! 17.Bf4

Threatening Rf3. Bb4![∞]) 16...cxd3
17.Qg4 (17.Bxg5!? Be7 18.Bf4±)
17...Ra6!]

[10...dxc4= 0.28/20 11.dxe5+
(11.Nxe5+ Nxe5 12.dxe5+ Bd3=)
11...Kc8]

11.g4!±

[11.dxe5?! hxg5 12.Nxg5 Nxe5=]

11...Bxb1

[11...Be4 12.Nc3! Bxf3 13.Qxf3
Strongly threatening Qf6. Nxd4
14.Qg2! Kc8 15.0-0± To be honest,
this is still somewhat messy to the
human eye, but SF maintains that it
is objectively unplayable for Black.]

**12.Rxb1 e4 13.Ne5+ Nxe5 14.dxe5
Bg7?**

[14...Kc8 15.0-0 and again the
defence a5 is offered by Stockfish. In
any case, this is also a tough position
for Black and one I should have
avoided.]

15.0-0 c6

[15...Bxe5 16.cxd5 Nxd5 (16...exd5
1.72/19 16...Nxd5 1.29 17.gxh6+-)
17.Qa4+-]

16.Be3+- Against Qb6. White is more
active. 16...hxg5? 2.96/21

[16...Bxe5± 1.45/16 17.gxh6 Rh7]

17.Bd4?? 0.00/23 Too slow.

[17.cxd5! and Black doesn't have a
good way of recapturing. I was
planning exd5 but after 18.Bd4
the position is clearly losing.]

[Only move: 17.cxd5!+- 2.96/21 cxd5
18.Qa4+ Kc8 19.Rbc1+ Kb8
20.Qd4]

17...Rf8 0.64/18

[17...Qb8! 18.cxd5 cxd5 I had only
considered 17...Qc7 which would be
clearly inferior on account of 19.Rc1.
19.Rf7! Bxe5 20.Bxe5 Qxe5
21.Qa4+ Kd8 ...Rc8 is the strong

threat. 22.Qa3! Qc7 and Black
holds!]

[17...dxc4? 18.Bb6+ (18.Bxa7+
Nd5+) 18...Nd5 19.Bxd8+-]
[17...Qb8!= 0.00/23 18.cxd5 cxd5]

18.Rxf8!± Qxf8 2.17/26 White now
steadily converts the win.

[18...Bxf8! is still playable for Black.
19.Qb3! b6 20.Rf1 And now Rf7
would win. dxc4! 21.Qxc4 Nd5
Inhibits Be3. 22.Bg6!± Although White
regains the pawn, Black has time to
coordinate.]

[Black should play 18...Bxf8± 0.65/20
19.Qb3 Kc7]

**19.Qb3+- b6 20.Rf1! Now defeat was
never in doubt. 20...Qh8 21.cxd5 exd5**

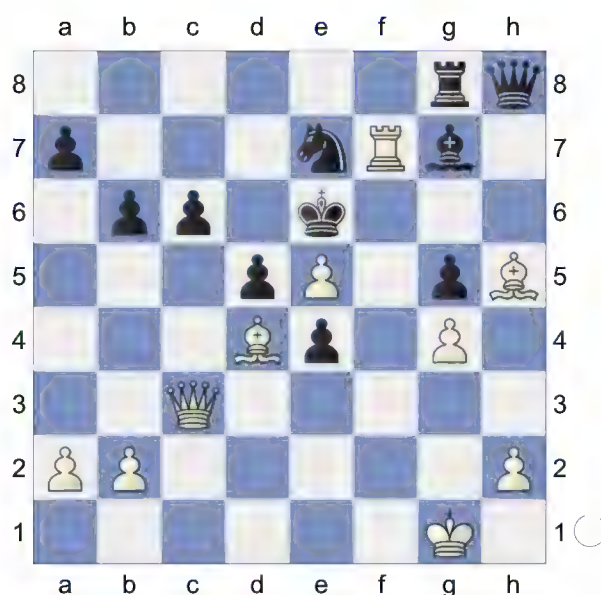
[I should have essayed 21...Bxe5
22.dxc6+! Kc7 when White must find
23.Qxe6! White threatens Qd7+ and
mate. Bxd4+ 24.Kg2! Qd8
Against Qd7+ 25.Rf8! Inhibits Bc5.]

22.Qc3! e6+! would now be deadly.

22...Rg8 6.73/20

[22...Kc7 4.36/20 23.Rf7 Re8]

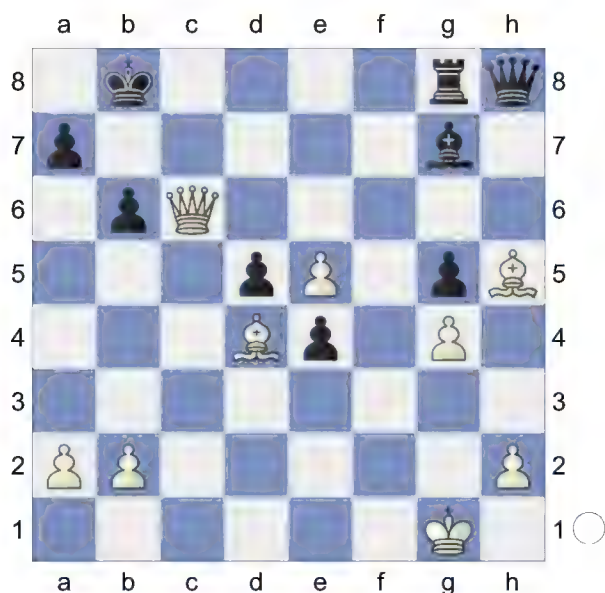
23.Rf7 Ke6



**24.Rxe7+! 15.29/5 Kxe7 25.Qa3+ Kd8
26.Qd6+**

[26.Qxa7 Bxe5 27.Bxb6+
 (27.Qxb6+? Bc7-+; 27.Bxe5 Qxe5
 28.Qa8+ Kc7=) 27...Kc8 28.Qa8+
 Kd7 29.Qa7+ (29.Qb7+ Ke6=)
 29...Kc8 30.Qa8+ Kd7 31.Qb7+ Ke6
 (31...Kd6 32.Bc7+ Kc5 33.Qa7+
 Kb5 34.Qb6+ Kc4 35.Qa6+ Kc5
 36.Qb6+ Kc4 37.Qa6+ Kc5 38.Qa5+
 Kc4 39.Qa6+=) 32.Qf7+ (32.Qxc6+
 Bd6+) 32...Kd6 33.Bc7+ Kc5
 34.Qe7+ (34.Bxe5 Qxe5 35.Qxg8
 Qd4+ 36.Kh1 Qd1+ 37.Kg2 Qd2+
 38.Kg3 Qe3+ 39.Kg2 Qe2+ 40.Kg1
 Qd1+ 41.Kg2 Qe2+ 42.Kg1 Qe1+
 43.Kg2 Qd2+ 44.Kg3 Qe3+ 45.Kg2
 Qf3+ 46.Kg1 Qe3+ 47.Kg2=)
 34...Kd4=]

26...Kc8 27.Qxc6+ Kb8



28.Qd6+!

[28.Qxd5 Rd8 29.Qxe4 Rxd4
 30.Qxd4 Bxe5=]

28...Kb7 29.Qxd5+ Kb8 30.Qd6+

[30.Qxe4 Rf8=]

30...Kb7 31.Bf7 13.64/20

[31.Bg6 #15/20 Ka6 32.Qa3+
 (32.Bxe4 Qh3 33.Qd7 Qxg4+
 34.Qxg4 Rd8 35.Qe2+ b5 36.a4
 Rb8 37.b4 Bh6 38.axb5+ Rxb5

39.Qa2+ Skewer Ra5 40.Qxa5#)
 32...Kb7 33.Bxe4+ Kc8 34.Qxa7
 Qxh2+ Decoy 35.Kxh2 Rh8+
 36.Kg1]

31...Rc8 32.Bd5+ Ka6



33.Qa3+! Skewer

[33.Bxe4 Qh3 34.Kf2 Qxh2+ 35.Ke3
 Qf4+ 36.Kd3 Qg3+ (36...Qxg4
 37.Qa3+ Skewer Kb5 38.Qb3+ Ka5
 39.Bc3+ Rxc3+ 40.Qxc3+ Ka6
 41.Qc4+ b5 42.Qc6+ Ka5 43.Qc7+
 Kb4 44.Qc3+ Ka4 45.Qa3#) 37.Ke2
 (37.Kd2 Bf8+) 37...Qxg4+ 38.Bf3
 Rc2+ 39.Kd1 Qxf3+=]

33...Kb5 34.b3

[34.Qxa7 Rc1+ 35.Kg2 Rc2+ 36.Kf1
 (36.Bf2 Rxf2+ 37.Kxf2 Qxh2+
 38.Kf1 Qf4+ 39.Ke2 Qxg4+ 40.Kf2
 Qf3+ 41.Kg1 Qe3+ 42.Kf1 Qh3+
 Qd4+ 46.Kf1 Qd3+ 47.Kg1 Qxd5-+)
 36...Rc1+ (36...Rxb2 37.Qxb6+ Ka4
 38.Bc6#; 36...Qh3+ 37.Ke1=) 37.Kg2
 Rc2+ 38.Kf1 (38.Bf2 Rxf2+ 39.Kxf2
 Qxh2+ 40.Ke1 Qg1+ 41.Kd2 Qg2+
 42.Kc1 Qf1+ 43.Kd2 Qd3+ 44.Kc1
 Bxe5+) 38...Rc1+ (38...Rxb2
 39.Qxb6+ Ka4 40.Bc6#; 38...Qh3+

39.Ke1=) 39.Kg2=]
34...a5 35.Qa4+ 8.56/5
 [35.Bb7! is one for the purists.]
 [Stronger than 35.Bxe4 Bxe5
 36.Bd3+ Kc6 37.Be4+ Kd7
 (37...Kb5 38.Bd3+ Kc6 39.Be4+
 Kb5=) 38.Bf5+ (38.Bxb6? Qxh2+
 39.Kf1 Qf4+ 40.Bf2 Rc1+-)
 38...Ke8 39.Qa4+ (39.Bxc8? Bxd4+
 40.Kg2 Qe5-+; 39.Bxe5 Qxe5
 40.Bxc8 Qe1+ 41.Kg2 Qe2+ 42.Kg1
 Qe1+ 43.Kg2 Qe4+ 44.Kf2 Qc2+
 45.Ke3 Qc3+ 46.Ke4 Qxc8±)
 39...Kf8 40.Qa3+ (40.Bxc8 Bxd4+
 41.Kg2 Be5=) 40...Ke8 41.Bxe5
 (41.Bxc8? Bxd4+ 42.Kg2 Qe5-+)
 41...Qxe5 42.Bxc8 Qe3+ 43.Kf1
 Qf3+ 44.Kg1 Qd1+ 45.Kf2 Qd2+
 46.Kf1 Qd1+ 47.Kf2 Qd2+ 48.Kf3
 Qd3+ 49.Kf2 Qd2+=]
 [Δ35.Bb7 #8/18 Qxh2+ Decoy
 36.Kxh2 Bxe5+ 37.Bxe5 Rc2+
 38.Kg3 a4 39.Qxa4+ Kc5 40.Qc6+
 Deflection (40.Qxe4 Rc3+ 41.Bxc3
 Kd6 42.Qe5+ Kd7 43.Bb4 Kd8
 44.Qe7#; 40.b4+ Kc4 41.Qb3+ Kb5
 42.a4#) 40...Kb4 41.Qxb6+ Ka3
 42.Qa5#]
35...Ka6 White is clearly winning.
36.Bc4+ A strong pair of Bishops.
 [And not 36.Bxe4 Qh3# (36...Bxe5?
 37.Bd3+ Kb7 38.Qd7+ Kb8
 39.Bxe5+ Qxe5 40.Bc4-+; 36...Bxe5?
 37.Bd3+ Kb7 38.Qd7+ Kb8
 39.Bxe5+ Qxe5 40.Bf1-+)]
36...Kb7 37.Qb5 Qh6 38.Qa6+
Deflection 38...Kb8 39.Bxb6
 [39.Qxb6+? loses. Qxb6 40.Bxb6
 Bxe5-+]
39...Rxc4 40.bxc4 Qc6 41.Ba7+ Kc7
42.Qxc6+ Kxc6 43.Bd4 Black resigns.
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.25

(precise) /Black=1.01
 1-0

B06
 □ Vachier Lagrave,Maxime 2722
 ■ Bricard,Emmanuel 2502
 86th ch-FRA Caen FRA (10) 24.08.2011
 [Kitty Kat]

B06: Modern Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4
Bg7 5.d5

[5.h3 Nf6 6.Be3 0-0 7.Qd2 e5 8.d5
 Ne7 9.Be2 Ne8 10.Bh6 a6 11.a4 f5
 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.0-0
 Nf6 15.Rad1 h6 16.Nh2 g5 17.Ng4
 Nxg4 18.hxg4 Bh7 19.g3 Qd7
 (26) Laxman,R-Analyse Von Lh5 6:
 World Championship Match 1985]

5...Nb8 6.Bc4N

[6.Be3 c6 7.Qd2 Nf6 8.Bh6 Bxh6
 9.Qxh6 Qb6 10) 2.Nf3 - The Modern
 Way-2.Nf3 #8]

6...Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 White is
 slightly better. **8...Nf6** Black is weak on
 the light squares **9.Bf4** White is more
 active. **9...0-0 10.0-0 c6 11.Rad1**
Nbd7 12.Qe2 Qa5 13.Rfe1 Rac8
14.Bb3 Rfe8 15.dxc6 bxc6 16.Bd2
Qc7 17.Be3 -0.08/19

[17.Bf4± 0.31/19]

17...Nb6= 18.a4 a5 19.f4 e6 20.Qf2
Nfd7 0.07/19

[Δ20...Rb8 -0.29/21]

21.f5 exf5 22.exf5 d5 23.Rf1 gxf5
0.40/20

[23...Rb8= -0.16/19]

24.Kh1 -0.10/22

[24.Rde1± 0.40/20]

24...Rb8 25.Bf4 Be5 26.Bc1 -0.72/22

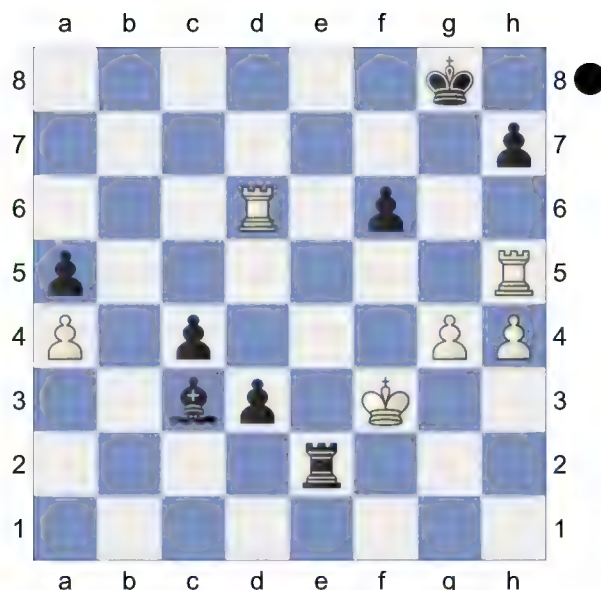
[26.Bxe5!= 0.30/19 Qxe5 27.Rd3]

26...Qd6 -0.23/22

[26...Nc8 $\mp$ -0.72/22]
27.Rd3 -0.91/19
 [27.Ne2= -0.23/22 keeps the balance.]
27...Nc5 $\mp$ 28.Rf3 Nxb3 -0.13/25
 [28...Nbd7 $\mp$ -1.36/20 Threatens to win with ...Nf6. 29.Rxf5 Bxc3 (29...Nxb3 30.cxb3 f6 31.Ne2=) 30.bxc3 Ne4 31.Rg5+ Nxg5 32.Bxg5 Qg6]
29.cxb3= Nd7!
 [29...d4?! 30.Ne2 $\pm$]
30.Ne2 Kh8 31.Rxf5 f6 32.Rh5 -0.45/21
 [32.Bf4= 0.00/23]
32...Rxb3 0.09/24
 [32...Nc5! $\mp$ -0.45/21]
33.Nd4 Bxd4! 34.Qc2 Qe7 35.Qxb3 Qe2 36.Qd1 Nc5 37.Rh4 Chess con chili. 37...Qxd1 38.Rxd1 Be5 39.Bf4 Bxb2 Black wants to play ...Re4! **40.Bc7 Ne4 41.Rb1! Bc3** ...Bb4 is the strong threat. **42.Rb6 c5** Hoping for ...Kg7. **43.Bf4 Re7** Dodges Rb7. White should prevent ...Kg7. **44.Rb8+** -0.61/19
 [44.g3= -0.06/21]
44...Kg7 $\mp$ 45.Rd8 d4 46.Kh2 Ng5 47.Bd6 -2.07/20
 [47.Rd5 $\mp$ -0.96/19 Ne6 48.Bg3]
47...Re4 48.Rh5 -4.43/19
 [48.Bf4 $\mp$ -1.32/20 Re2 49.Kg1]
48...c4++ 49.g4 d3 50.Rd7+ Kg8
 [50...Kg6 51.Rh6+ Kxh6 52.Bf8+ Kg6 53.Rg7+ Kh6 54.Rg8#]
51.h4 Re2+ 52.Kg3 Ne4+ 0.00/29
 [52...Be1+-+ -5.46/24 53.Kf4 Ne6+ 54.Kf3 Nd4+ 55.Kf4 d2 56.Rd8+ Kf7 57.Rxh7+ Kg6]
53.Kf3= Nxd6 54.Rxd6

(Diagram)

Endgame. And now Rd8+ would win.



KRR-KRB 54...Re7 Strongly threatening ...Be5. **55.Rc5 Bb4 56.Rd8+ Kf7 57.Rxc4 d2 58.Re4 Rc7 59.h5 Rc1 60.Rd7+ Kf8 61.Red4**

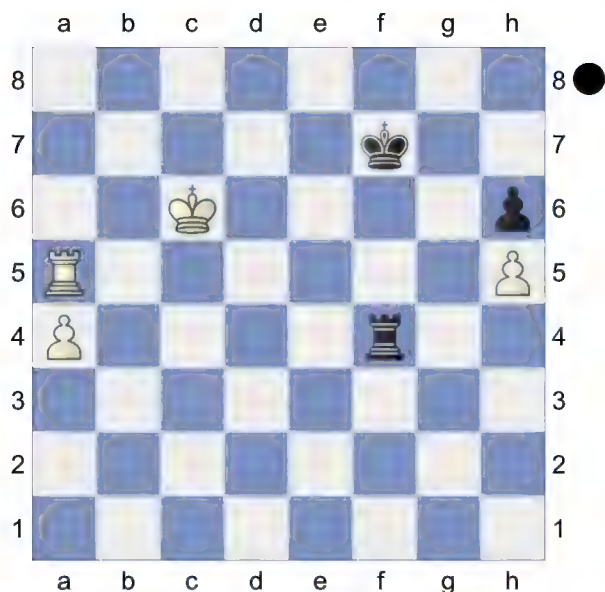
[61.Rxh7 gets mated. d1Q+ (61...d1R? 62.Re2+-) 62.Re2 Rc3+ (62...Qxa4 leads to mate. 63.Rh8+ Kf7 64.Rhe8 Qd1 65.Kg3 Qg1+ 66.Kh3 Bd6 67.R8e7+ Bxe7 68.Kh4 Rc3 69.Rxe7+ Kxe7 70.h6 Qh2#) 63.Kf4 Qf1+ (63...Qxe2 is a self mate. 64.Rh8+ Kg7 65.h6+ Kxh8 66.Kf5 Rf3+ 67.Kg6 Qe8#; 63...Qxe2 64.Rh8+ Kg7 65.h6+ Kxh8 66.Kf5 Rf3+ 67.Kg6 Qe8#)]

61...h6 62.Ke4 aiming for Kf5. **62...Rf1**
 [62...Bc3 feels hotter. 63.Rd3 Ke8 64.Kf5 Rf1+]

63.Rxd2
 [63.Rd3 seems wilder. Kg8 64.Ke3 Kf8 65.R3d5]

63...Bxd2 64.Rxd2 KR-KR 64...Ra1 65.Rd4 Kf7 66.Kd5 Rf1 67.Kc6 f5 68.gxf5 Rxf5 69.Rd5 Rf4! 70.Rxa5
 Diagram

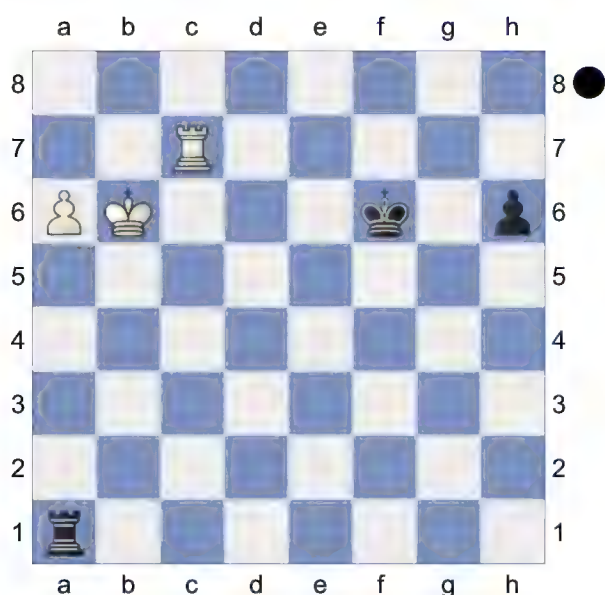
(Diagram)



According to endgame tablebases, this position is drawn even without the h6-pawn! Black just needs to keep targetting the a-pawn. **70...Rh4** This move is OK, but there was no need to go after the h5-pawn.

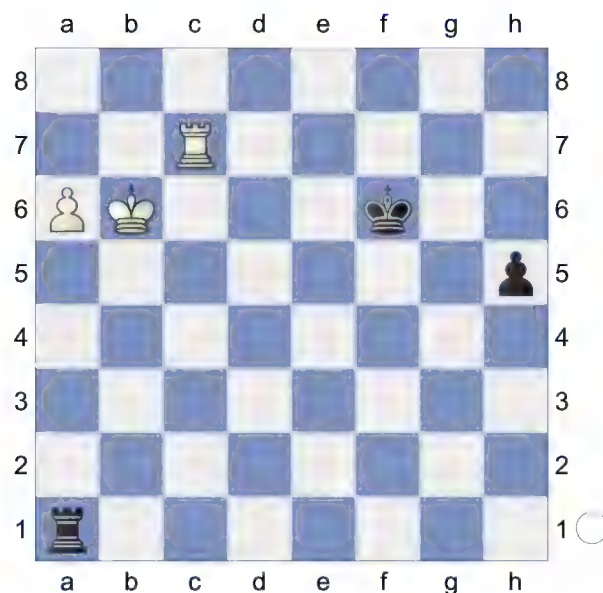
[Black could play **70...Kg7 71.Ra7+ Kg8 72.a5 Rf5=**]

71.Ra7+ Kf6 72.a5 Rxh5 73.a6 Black must now prevent **Rd7**. **73...Ra5 74.Kb6 Ra1 75.Rc7** Diagram



. **Rc5** would now be deadly. **75...h5??**
7.58/22

[**75...Kg5 76.Rc5+ Kg4! 77.Ra5 Rb1+ 78.Kc7 Rf1!=**]
[**75...Rb1+ 76.Kc6 Ra1 77.a7 h5=**]
[**75...Rb1+= 0.00/33 76.Kc6 Rc1+ 77.Kd6 Ra1**]



After this move Black will play without a king. **76.Rc5!+-** White is clearly winning. **76...Kg6 77.a7 h4 78.Ra5** What a bad dream for Black.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/Black=0.27 (precise)
1-0

B08
 Edouard,Romain **2621**
 Houska,Jovanka **2420**
 BCF-chT1c 1718 (4NCL) Promotion pool..
[E,Romain, Kitty Kat]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System
1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.d5 Nb8 6.h3 Bg7 7.Be2!?
 [**7.Bc4 0-0 8.0-0 e5 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Bb3 Nc6 11.Re1 Re8±**
0-1 (58) Ding,L (2766)-Sargissian,G (2702) CHN 2016 12.Bf4]

7...0-0 8.0-0!? A nice idea I found just before going to the game! Other ideas lead to slightly more pleasant but very dry positions. **8...e5 9.dxe6!?**

[9.Bg5 h6+- (9...Nbd7 10.Nd2 0-1 (45) Fridman,D (2667)-Sargissian, G (2666) Warsaw POL 2012; 9...Qe8 10.Nd2 a6 11.a4) 10.Be3? Nh5± (10...Nfd7 11.Qd2± is definitely better for White (♖ d2- ♖ c4) next, but I wrongly wanted more. Kh7 12.Ne1± f5 is generally not such a great idea: 13.exf5± Δ ♗ e3, ♖ d2. gxf5 14.f3 Nf6 15.g4) 11.Re1! Nf4 (11...Nd7± 12.Bf1) 12.Bf1± Nd7 (12...f5 13.Bxf4 exf4 14.e5) 13.g3!± Best and simplest might be 13...Nh5 14.Nd2]

9...Bxe6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Nc6!?
12.Qd2 White has an edge. **12...Kh7** 0.48/21

[12...d5= 0.09/24 should be considered.]

13.Nd4 Perhaps not the best plan.

[13.Rad1 Re8 14.Rfe1 a6± was perhaps best for White, with 25. ♖d1 or 25. ♖d2 to follow. (14...Bd7?? 15.Bd3) The engine prefers 15.Bf1±]

13...Nxd4

[13...Bd7 0.73/20 13...Nxd4 0.28 14.f4 Re8 15.Bf3]

14.Bxd4 d5

[14...c5! 15.Be3 d5± 16.Bxc5! (16.exd5 then Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Qxd5↑) 16...Nxe4 17.Nxe4± The engine likes 17...dxe4! 18.Qe3 Re8 which I clearly underestimated. Black is fine. If]

15.exd5 Focusing on d3-d4, but that wasn't best. **15...Nxd5 16.Bxg7 Kxg7** An important move. **17.Ne4 Bf5**

[17...Qe7 18.c4 Nb4 0.64/22 (18...Nf6= 0.07/23 19.Qc3 Rad8)

19.Qc3+ f6±]

18.Ng3 Be6 19.Bf3!? White is more active. **19...c6 20.Ne4** Dodges Qf6 **20...Bf5! 21.Ng3** aiming for Nxf5+. **21...Be6 22.Ne4** Against Qf6

[22.Rad1 Black is completely fine. Qe7!? 0.71/22 (22...Qg5!± 0.32/23) 23.Bxd5 Bxd5 (23...cxd5 24.c3) 24.c4 Be6± 25.Ne4]

22...Bf5! 23.Nc5 0.04/23

[23.Qd4+± 0.48/20 is more appropriate. Nf6 24.Nd6]

23...Qf6 0.45/22

[23...Qb6 24.Qd4+ and luckily, White recovers the pawn and is even a bit better. Indeed Kg8??

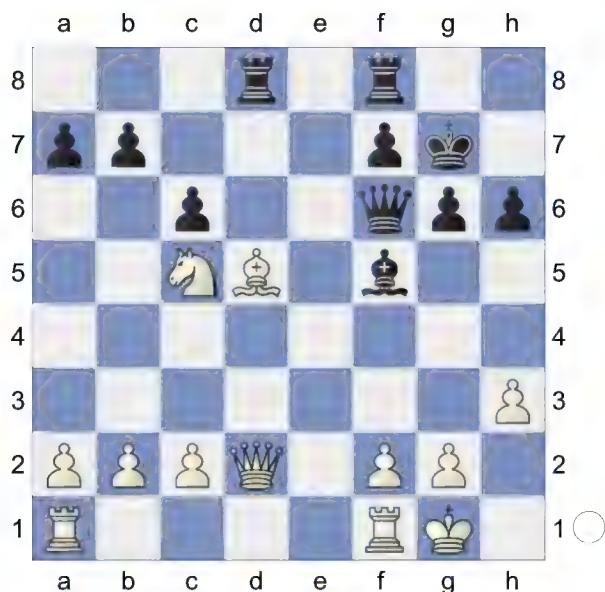


loses to **25.Bxd5** 0.28/20 (Better is **25.g4!±** 0.71/19 **Be6 26.Rae1**) **25...cxd5**]

[23...b6 24.Nb3 (24.Nb7 looked dubious for Black to me, but it is perfectly playable. Qd7?! 25.c4± After 25...Be6! or 26.cxd5!? cxd5) 24...Qf6+- 25.Nd4 Rad8]

[23...b6= 0.04/23 24.Nb7 Qf6]

24.Bxd5?! Again very natural, but not best. There were several options to get a slightly better position. **24...Rad8**



Pin 25.c4 b6 26.Na4

[26.Na6 Be6+- 27.Nc7 Rd7±
Both Jovanka and I missed 28.Rfe1!
cxd5 29.Nxe6+! with the idea to
answer ♔xc8 with a crushing ... ♔h1!
That means White should try fxe6]
[26.Nb7 Rd7 27.c5 cxd5+-]
[26.Na6!?]

26...b5! At this moment I realised I had
completely overestimated my move 24.
♔f1.

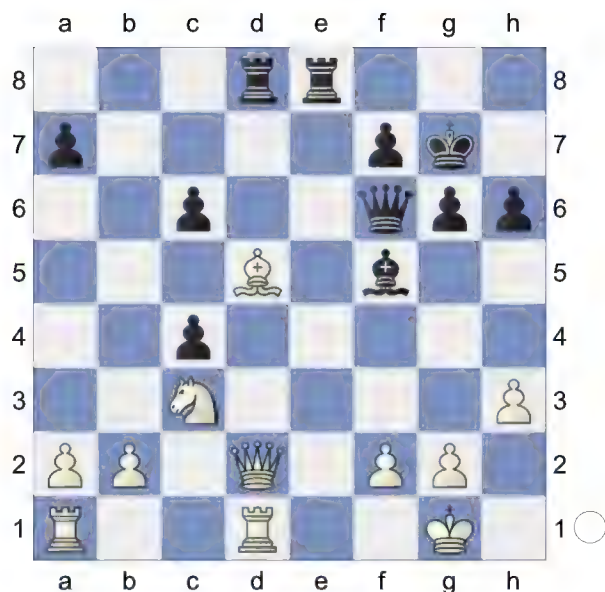
[Much worse is 26...cxd5?! 27.cxd5
Rd7 28.Nc3±]

27.Nc3 bxc4! And now ...Bd3 would
win. **28.Rfd1! Rfe8**

[28...cxd5 29.Nxd5 Qe5 30.f4
didn't please me too much, as here
White can't play ♖e1-e2. A simpler
way was 30...Qb8 31.Qc3+ f6+-]

(Diagram)

29.Qc1! cxd5 Giving some chances.
30.Nxd5! Qe5 31.f4 Qe6 32.Qxc4 h5!
33.Qc3+ Now Black doesn't have
enough compensation.
[33.Qc5!?]



33...Kh6 34.Qc5 Rc8 35.Qf2

[35.Qxa7? perishes. Rc2 36.Qa3
h4+-]

35...Rc2 36.Rd2 Rxd2 37.Qxd2
I was very lucky to have this move - as
I'd missed Black's last one... **37...Qe2**
38.Qc3 Qd3?

[38...Bc8+-]

39.Qxd3N

[39.Ne7 keeps more tension. Be4
40.Qxd3 Bxd3 41.Re1]

39...Bxd3= Endgame. KRB-KRN
40.Rd1 Bf5 41.Kf2 Re4 42.Kf3 Ra4
43.Nc3 Rb4 44.g4

[44.b3]

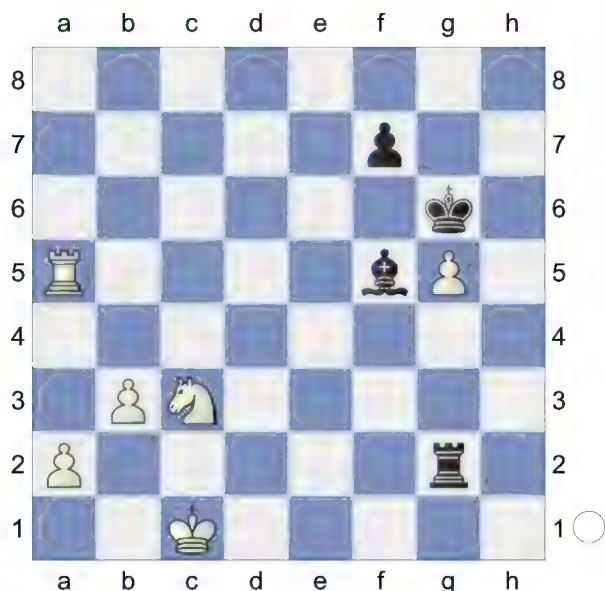
44...Bc8 45.b3 Bb7+ 1.57/22

[45...hxg4+± 0.57/23 46.hxg4 g5]

46.Ke3± Rd7 is the strong threat.
46...hxg4 47.hxg4 g5 48.Rd4+-
-0.01/24

[48.Rd6+ Kg7∞ 49.fxg5??
would allow a very nice threat to work
out: Rxc4! 50.Rd7 Rg3+! and mate
to follow. (50...Rb4 51.Na4) 51.Kd2?
Rg2+= 1.77/20 (51...Bh1± 1.33/20)
52.Kc1+- Bc8 2.10/21 (∆52...Bf3
1.69/21) 53.Rxa7+- Bf5 White must
now prevent ...Rc2+. 54.Ra5 Kg6

2.83/20 (54...Bh7 1.95/20
keeps fighting.)



55.Nd5!]

[48.Rd6± 1.48/23 Kg7 49.fxg5]

48...Rxd4!= Remove Defender
was necessary to stay in the game:
Black is worse, but as White can't
exchange light-squared bishops
anymore; the game is definitely not over.

49.Kxd4?

Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very
precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless) . Sensor
Board Error (Ke4/e5)?

[49.Kxd4! Strongly threatening Ke3.
gxf4 ...Kg5 would now be deadly.
50.Ne4]

1-0

□ Przybylski,Wojciech

B00

2321

■ Peng,Li Min

2549

Titled Tuesday intern op 18th Apr Late bl..
[Kitty Kat]

**B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence**

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5

g6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.h3 0-0 7.d4 a6
has lost popularity (7...Nd7).verliert an
Beliebtheit (7...Sd7). **8.Bxc6 bxc6**
9.Qe2N

[9.Re1 Rb8 (9...Nd7 10.Bg5 h6
11.Bh4 Rb8 12.b3 c5 13.Nd5 g5
14.Bg3 e6 15.Ne3 cxd4 16.Nxd4
Bb7 17.Nc4 Ba8 18.c3 Nc5 19.f3
f5 20.exf5 exf5 21.b4 8.Bc6-N,N
2015) 10.Rb1 Nd7 11.Bg5 c5 Bo,A]

[9.e5 Nd5 10.Nxd5 cxd5 11.Bf4
Rb8 12.b3 f6 13.Bg3 Bf5 14.Re1
Qd7 15.Qe2 Qc6 16.e6 Be4
17.Rac1 Bh6 18.Nd2 Qc3 19.Nxe4
dxe4 20.Rcd1 f5 21.d5 Rb5 22.f3
c6 23.dxc6 f4 (48) Chapter-Games
Chapter 8 Game 2]

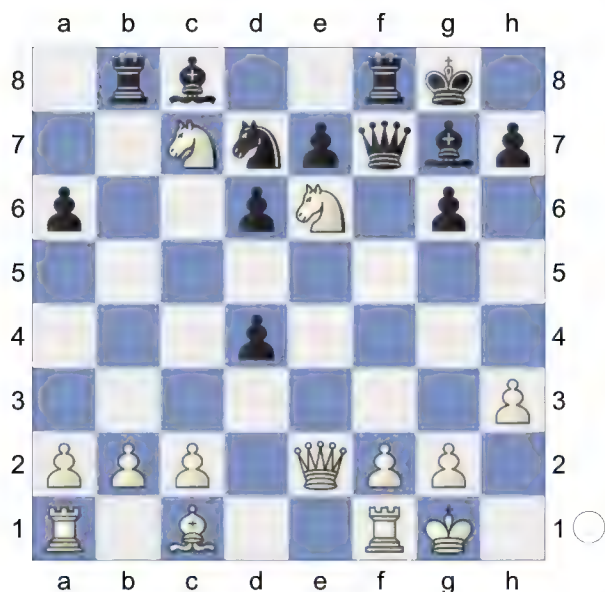
9...Nd7 10.e5 a5N

[Vorgänger: 10...c5 11.e6 -0.87/21
(11.Bg5= 0.10/20 keeps the balance.
Re8 12.e6 fxe6 13.Qxe6+ Kh8
14.Qe3) 11...fxe6? 1.05/21
(11...cxd4 -0.87/21 12.exd7 Bxd7)



12.Ng5!± cxd4 2.16/20 (12...Nb8±
0.93/23) 13.Nxe6+- Qe8 14.Nd5 Qf7
White must now prevent ...Nc5.
15.Ndxc7 Rb8

(Diagram)



16.Re1 0.84/21 (16.Nxg7!+- 2.08/21
And now Nge6 would win. Qxg7
17.Ne6) 16...Ne5± 17.Nxf8 Kxf8
0-1 (56) Gurvich,V (2230)-Hakobyan,
H (2070) Chess.com INT 2020]

11.Rd1 0.15/18
[11.Re1± 0.55/21
is more appropriate.]

11...Nb6 12.Bg5 -0.42/18
[12.a4= 0.28/18]

12...Re8 0.42/21
[Black should try 12...f6± -0.42/18
13.Bc1 Qe8]

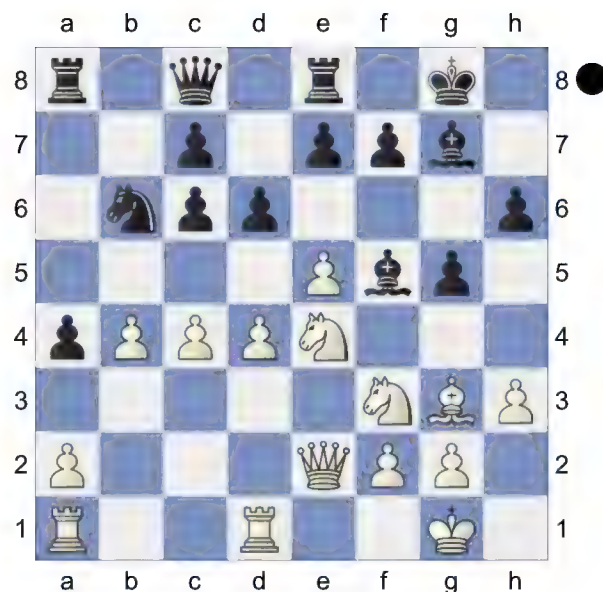
13.b3 a4 14.Ne4 h6 15.Bh4 -0.97/20
[15.Bd2!= 0.21/20 remains equal.]

15...g5 -0.24/23
[Better is 15...Rf8± -0.97/20 16.c4
f6]

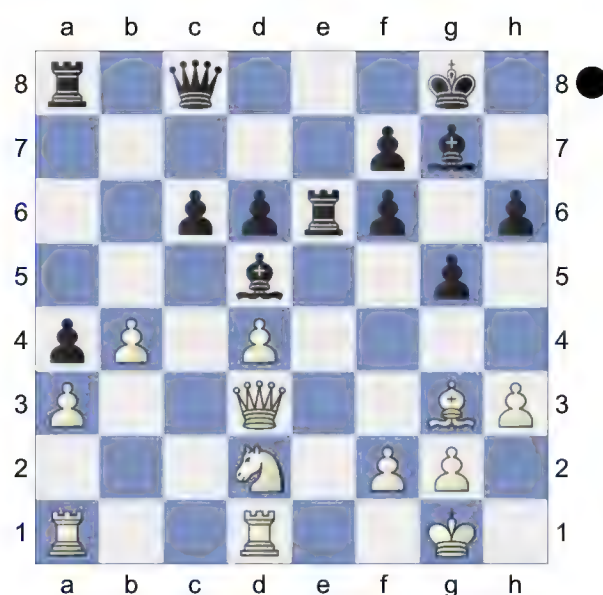
16.Bg3= Bf5 17.c4 Qc8 18.b4
-0.87/19
[18.Nc3= -0.16/19]

(Diagram)

18...Nxc4!± Deflection 19.Nf6+?
-2.38/21 Loses the game.
[19.Nexg5 d5 20.Nxf7 Qe6+-



(20...Kxf7? 21.Nh4+-)
[19.a3± -0.84/18]
[19.Rac1 Rb8]
19...exf6+ 20.Qxc4 Be4
[20...fxe5 21.dxe5 dxe5 22.Qxc6]
[20...dxe5 21.Qxc6 Qe6 22.Qxe6
Bxe6 (22...Rxe6 23.Rac1±) 23.Rd2]
21.exd6 cxd6 22.Nd2 -2.31/20
[22.Bxd6 -1.78/20 was necessary.
Bxf3 23.gxf3 Qxh3 24.Qxc6]
22...Bd5 23.Qd3 Re6 24.a3



f5! 25.f4
[25.f3 Qa6]

25...Qa6 26.Qxf5 -5.77/20

[26.Qxa6 -3.19/22 might work better.
Rxa6 (26...Bxd4+? 27.Bf2-+)
27.Bf2]

26...Bxd4+ This pair of bishops is nice.

27.Kh2 White is weak on the dark

squares 27...Qe2 Dodges Nf3 28.Rg1

Bxg1+ 29.Rxg1 Qxd2 30.fxg5 hxg5

31.b5 Re2 32.Qf1 cxb5 33.Be1

Rxg2+ 34.Rxg2 Qxg2+ 35.Qxg2 Bxg2

36.Kxg2 Endgame. KR-KB 36...f5

37.Bb4 d5 38.Bd2 f4 39.h4 gxh4

40.Bxf4 Kf7 41.Bd6 Ke6 42.Bb4 Kf5

-13.93/21

[♠42...Rg8+ -#26/19 43.Kh1 Rc8
44.Kh2 Rc2+ 45.Kh3 d4 46.Kxh4
d3 47.Kg5 d2 48.Bxd2 Rxd2 49.Kf4
b4 50.Ke3 Rd8 51.Kf4 bxa3 52.Kf3
a2 53.Kf4 a1Q (53...a1B
leads to mate. 54.Kg4 Be5 55.Kf3
a3 56.Kf2 a2 57.Ke2 a1Q 58.Kf2
Rd2+ 59.Kf3 Qd1+ 60.Ke4 Qe2#;
53...a3 gets mated. 54.Kf3 a1Q
55.Kf4 Qf6+ 56.Ke4 a2 57.Ke3 a1Q
58.Ke4 Qae5#) 54.Kf3 Qc3+ 55.Kg4
Rg8+ (55...a3? is a self mate.
56.Kh4 Rg8 57.Kh5 Qh8#) 56.Kf4
Qg3+ 57.Ke4 Rg4#]

43.Kh3 Ke4 44.Kxh4 Rg8 (-> ...d4)

45.Bd6 d4

Weighted Error Value: White=1.31/
Black=0.49

0-1

□ Roebers,Eline

■ Priyanka,Nutakki

Swiss Queens Wed #38 blitz (10)

[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence,
Nimzowitsch Defence

B00

2331

2289

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.h3 Nf6 4.Nc3
g6 5.d4 Bg7 6.Bg5

[6.Be2 0-0 7.Be3 a6 8.a4 e6 9.0-0
b6 10.Qd2 Bb7 11.Bh6 Nb4 12.Bd3
Nxd3 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Qxd3 Qe7
15.Rfe1 e5 16.Rad1 Rfe8 17.d5
Nh5 18.Ne2 a5 19.c4 h6 20.g4
Nf6 0-1 (34) Barnes,O (1915)-
O'Donnell,C (2285) IRL-ch 103rd 2024
(2)]

6...0-0 7.Qd2

[7.d5 Nb8 8.Qd2 c6 9.Bh6 Bxh6
10.Qxh6 Qb6 11.0-0-0 Qxf2 12.Bd3
Nbd7 13.Rdf1 Qc5 14.Ng5
Liang,A (2572)-Sharafiev,A (2432)
ProChessLeague 138/(45) 2018]

7...a6N

[7...d5 8.Bxf6 exf6 9.exd5 Re8+
10.Be2 Nb4 10) 2.Nf3 - The Modern
Way-2.Nf3 #6]

8.0-0-0 White is slightly better. 8...b5

9.Bd3 Nb4 10.Kb1 -0.25/20

[White should play 10.Be2± 0.46/20]

10...c5 1.12/19

[10...Nxd3= -0.25/20 remains equal.
11.cxd3 Re8]

11.Ne2? -0.69/20

[11.dxc5± 1.12/19 Bb7 (11...dxc5
12.e5=) 12.cxd6 exd6 13.Qf4]

(Diagram)

11...Bb7 12.Ng3 Qb6 13.c3 -1.68/19

[13.h4± -0.65/20]

13...Nxd3+ 14.Qxd3 b4 15.c4 cxd4

16.Nxd4 Nd7 17.Ndf5? -3.78/21

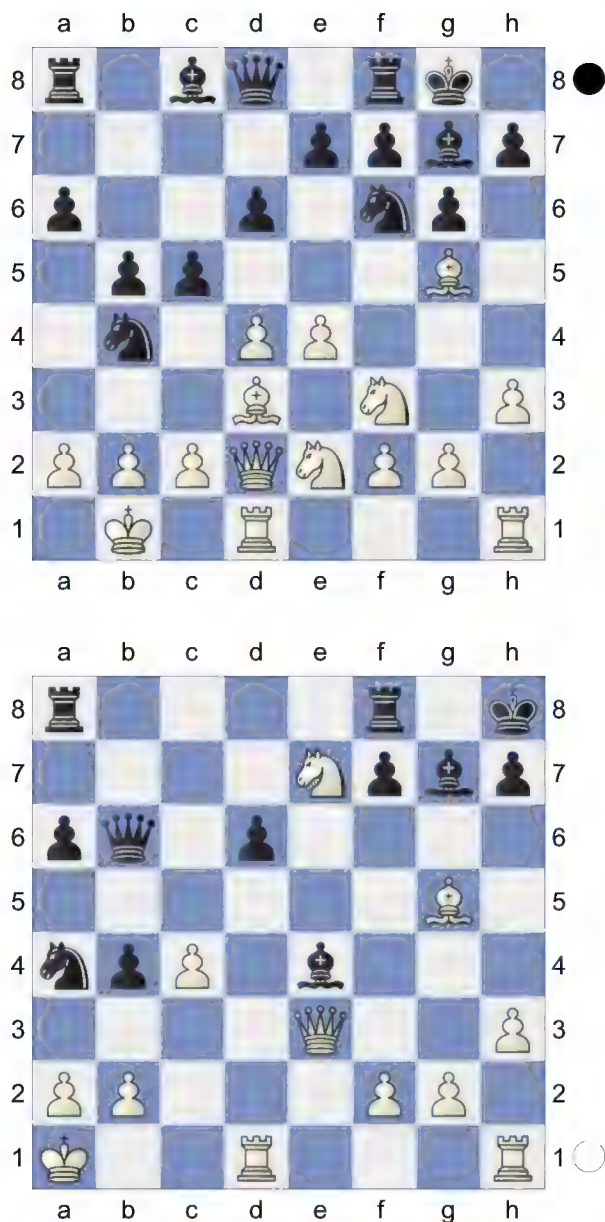
[17.Qe3± -1.60/19 was necessary.]

17...gxf5 18.Nxf5 Nc5

[Much less strong is 18...Qxf2 19.Rd2
Ne5 20.Qc2+]

19.Nxe7+ Kh8 20.Qe3 Bxe4+

Black is clearly winning. 21.Ka1 Na4



22.Qxe4 -6.48/21

[Δ 22.Rd2 -4.35/19 Qxe3
(22...Bxg2? 23.Rc1-+) 23.fxe3]

22...Bxb2+ 23.Kb1 aiming for Qc2.

23...Nc3+

[Not 23...Qxf2 24.Qc2 Qxc2+
25.Kxc2=]

24.Kxb2 Nxe4 25.Be3 Qa5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.76/
Black=0.48

0-1

□ **Agrest, Inna**

■ **Osmak, Iulija**

Swiss Queens Wed #4 blitz (10) 21.2.24
[Kitty Kat]

C44

2279

2452

C44: Ponziani Opening and Scotch Gambit

In that game, you will see the opposite side castling attack and how important it's to start first to attack the opponent's king. Also, we have to master the art of defend because our opponent will counterattack and use sacrifices as well.

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Be3 e5N

[4...Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.h3 Bh5 7.d5
exd5 8.exd5 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Ne5
10.Qe2 Be7 11.0-0-0 0-0 12.f4 Ng6
13.g4 Re8 14.g5 Nd7 15.Qf2 c5
16.h4 Rb8 17.Bd3 Qa5 18.Bxg6
fxg6 19.h5 1-0 (44) Yordanov,N
(2174) - Pavle Orlov (2310)
Shampionat na Bulgaria-Plovdiv 1980
(8)]

5.c3 Nf6 6.Bd3 -0.28/21

[6.h3± 0.96/21 Bxf3 7.gxf3 (7.Qxf3
d5=)]

6...d5= 6...d5 scores better than 6...Be7.

6...d5 punktet besser als 6...Le7. **7.Nbd2**

exd4 8.cxd4 dxe4 Black is slightly

better. **9.Nxe4 Bb4+ 10.Nc3 0-0**

11.0-0 Rb8 12.a3 Be7 0.31/24

[12...Ba5= -0.17/18]

13.Be2± Nd5 14.Nxd5N

[Vorgänger: 14.Qb3 Be6

...Nxe3 would now be deadly. 15.Qc2

f5 0.73/19 (15...Re8= 0.29/21

deserves consideration.) 16.Rad1±

a6 17.Bc1 Bf6 1.54/19 (17...b5±

0.66/21) 18.Rfe1± Qd7? 3.24/19

(18...Kh8± 1.26/19) 19.Bc4+-

Rxe6! is the strong threat. Bf7 20.Ne5

Bxe5 21.dxe5 1-0 De Coverly,R
 (2038)-Mc Aleenan,C (1813) London
 Classic op 4th 2012 (7)]

14...Qxd5 15.h3 Bh5 16.Rc1 Bf6
1.45/20
 [16...Rfe8± 0.52/21]

17.Rc5± Bxf3 18.Rxd5
 [Reject 18.gxf3?! Qd6 19.d5 Ne7=]

18...Bxd5 19.Bf3 0.49/19
 [19.Bd3± 1.46/23 And now Qh5
 would win. Rbd8 20.Bf4]

19...Bxf3± 20.Qxf3 Nxd4 21.Bxd4
0.08/19
 [21.Qg4± 0.50/19 Rbd8 22.Bg5
 Bxg5 23.Qxg5]

21...Bxd4= 22.b4 c5 23.Rd1 b6
24.Re1 Bf6 25.Rc1 Rfc8 26.Qg4 h6
27.a4 Bd4 28.b5 Re8
 [28...Rc7 simplifies 29.Qxd4 cxd4
 30.Rxc7 d3]

29.Qd7 Ra8 30.Kf1 Prevents Re2.
30...Red8 31.Qb7 Rdb8 32.Qf3 a6
33.Qc6 axb5 34.axb5 -2.39/22
 [34.Qxb5= -0.30/23 Ra5 35.Qd7]

34...Ra2+ 35.Kg1 Rxf2
 [Much less strong is 35...Bxf2+
 36.Kh1f]

36.Kh1 Rd8? 0.00/27
 [36...Rf6+ -2.19/21 37.Qe4 Rd8]

37.Qxb6= Re8 38.Qc6 Ree2 39.Rg1
 [39.b6 looks sharper. Be5 40.b7
 Kh7 41.Qd5]

39...Rf6 40.Qc8+ Kh7 41.Qc7?
-2.81/22 Bxg1 42.Kxg1+ Endgame.
KQ-KRR 42...Rff2? -0.96/20
 [42...Rb2+ -2.65/23 Hoping for ...
 Rb1+. 43.Qxc5 Rb1+ 44.Kh2 g6]

43.Qxc5? -7.83/24
 [43.Qg3f -0.96/20 Rf5 (43...Rxc2+?
 44.Qxc2 Rxc2+ 45.Kxc2+-) 44.Qd3
 Re1+ 45.Kh2]

43...Rxc2+ 44.Kf1 Rb2? -1.25/22
 [44...Rc2!+ -5.19/27 and Black stays

clearly on top. 45.Qe5 Rh2]

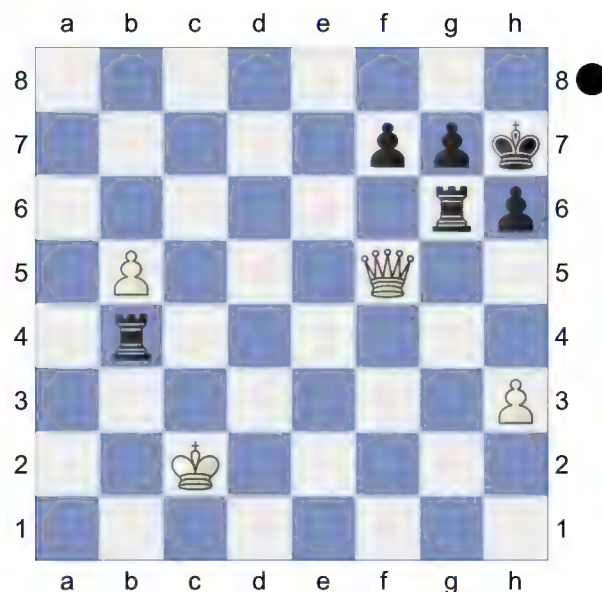
45.Qf5+ Rg6 46.Ke1 -1.65/18
 [46.h4f -1.21/22 h5 47.Qxh5+ Kg8
 48.Qd5]

46...Rb4+ 47.Kd1 -2.92/23
 [47.Ke2f -1.60/17]

47...Rb2? -0.63/23
 [47...Rd4+- -2.92/23 48.Kc2 Rd8]

48.Kc1? -2.48/25
 [48.h4!f -0.63/23 h5 49.Ke1]

48...Rb4 49.Kc2



Kg8? -0.25/19
 [49...Rc4+!+ -2.55/21 50.Kb3 Rc1]

50.Qc8+ -1.60/5
 [50.Qc5!= -0.25/19 was the only way
 to keep the balance. Rg2+ 51.Kc3]

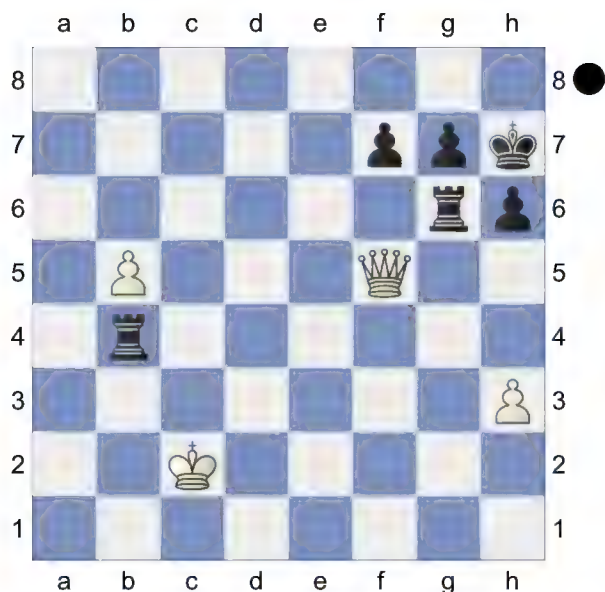
50...Kh7f 51.Qf5

(Diagram)

f6? 0.04/28
 [51...Rc4+!+ -1.97/19 52.Kb3 Rc7]

52.Kc3
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.45/
 Black=0.45. Sensor Board Error (Ke4/
 e5)?

1-0



□ Baramidze, David

■ Naiditsch, Arkadij

6th EICC Warsaw POL (13) 01.07.2005
[TonyK, MH]

A40

2542

2626

A40: Unusual replies to 1 d4

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 e5 3.d5 Nce7 4.c4 Ng6 5.Nc3 Bc5 Neil McDonald: 'The Najdorf Variation has always been a reliable workhorse for players looking to imbalance the position as Black and create winning chances.'

' 6.Nf3 Neil McDonald: 'Preparing the English Attack, which has become the most popular system against the Najdorf.'

' 6...Nf6 Neil McDonald: 'The so-called Classical response establishes an equal share of the centre and chases the white knight from the centre. On the other hand it leaves a hole on d5.' 7.Be2 0-0 Neil McDonald: 'I recall Nimzowitsch making a paradoxical remark about having a weak point in your centre (it might have been in Chess Praxis) He said (this is a paraphrase) that having a

hole has the virtue of solving the problem of where to put your pieces: they have to be used to protect the hole. And in doing so they will find themselves on good squares with influence over the centre and ready for any plan you wish to undertake. Without the hole you might well end up putting your pieces on worse squares. Here the hole draws the black pieces like a magnet – the bishop goes to e6, followed by the knight heading from b8 via d7 to b6.

' 8.0-0 Neil McDonald: 'Meanwhile White's plan begins to unfold: he'll castle queenside and then aim his g-pawn at the knight on f6.'

' The position is equal. 8...d6 9.Qc2 a6N Neil McDonald: 'Jumping ahead Nimzo will be proved right: the power of the knight on b6 extends beyond guarding d5 to the c4-square and (though it's not obvious yet why this should matter) the a4-square.'

[9...Bd7 10.a3 a5]
10.a3 Qe7 11.b4 Ba7 12.Nd1 -0.49/21
[12.a4= -0.11/20 is superior.]

12...Nh5 0.34/20

[12...Nf4]

[12...Nf4± -0.49/21]

13.Ne3 -0.28/20 White lends extra support to the g-pawn.

[13.g3]

[13.g3± 0.34/20]

13...Ngf4= Neil McDonald: 'Both players complete their development. White's intention hasn't been to launch a violent pawn storm on the kingside. Instead he is content to have dislodged the knight from f6 and left it cut off on h5. This has weakened Black's defence of the d5-square and eroded the co-ordination of his pieces. Baramidze wants to exploit

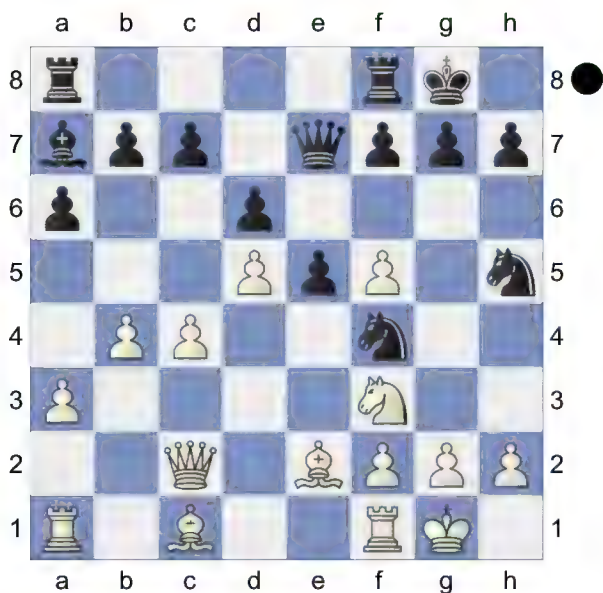
this with probing attacks in the centre and on the queenside. Unfortunately for him he fails to make an important preparatory move (see the note to Black's next move for more details.)

' **14.Nf5?! -0.81/24** Apparently the most ambitious, but it allows a dangerous tactical counter. Neil McDonald: 'QUESTION: The knight is hanging on b6, but can you make an immediate exchange sacrifice on c3 work? (don't look for a mate, it's about gaining positional compensation without dropping too much material.).'

[14.Bd1 ♞ -0.40/22]

Neil McDonald: 'ANSWER: ' **14...Qf6! -0.30/19** A surprising blow with the knight hanging on b6!

[14...Bxf5 as Black can do better with 15.exf5



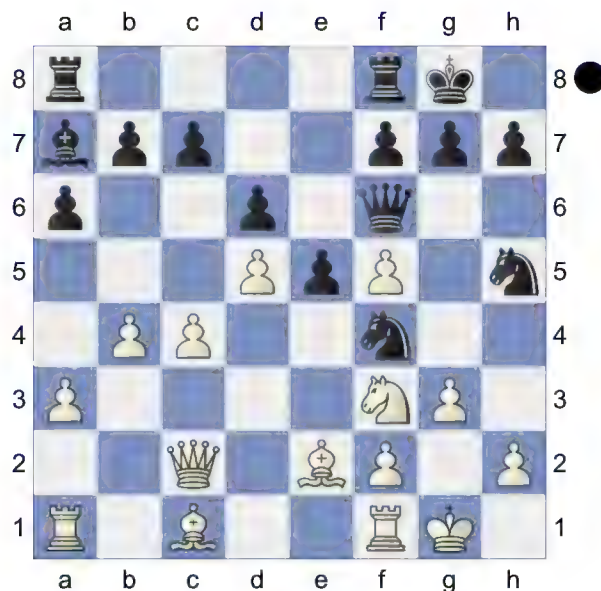
(the key point is that this is check) when after e4 (15...Rfe8!)]

[14...Bxf5 ♞ -0.81/24 15.exf5 Rfe8 (15...e4 16.g3±)]

15.g3 White takes the knight and attacks the black queen, but it might not be best. **15...Bxf5** The cute tactical point.

Neil McDonald: 'QUESTION: How should Black continue after 16 Kb1 seeing that his queen and rook on c3 are hanging and 16...Rc7 17 Bxc7 Qxc7 18 Rxc5 just leaves him a rook down?

' **16.exf5?!**



A new try, but it doesn't help at all. Neil McDonald: '?' Neil McDonald: 'Now Black wins the battle of the bishops hands down. The elimination of the g-pawn not only derived White of the pawn spearheading his attack but also opened the way for the black bishop to go to h4 when the white queen becomes a target.'

16...e4! 0.60/26 The white queen has no squares from which to defend the b6-bishop.

[16...Nxe2+!= -0.21/20 17.Qxe2 e4 (17...Qxf5 18.Nh4± Deflection)]

17.Bxf4? -0.49/27 This just loses.

[17.gxf4± 0.60/26 exf3 (17...Qxa1? perishes. 18.Ng5+-) 18.Bxf3]

17...Nxf4 ♞ 18.gxf4 White has an extra exchange, but his position is a wreck.

[18.Qxe4 Nh3+ 19.Kg2 Nxf2=]

18...exf3 Ouch! Neil McDonald: 'QUESTION: So we have the 'broken white queenside' model after all. But

unusually the disaster for White will occur on the kingside. Can you see how Black gets a crushing advantage after 19 Rh1, saving the rook from capture?

' 19.Bxf3 Qh6 -0.07/23

[19...Bd4 -0.44/21 20.Rab1 a5]

20.Rae1 Neil McDonald: 'QUESTION: Black had better do something fast as his knight is hanging and dare not move on pain of mate on g7. Any ideas?

ANSWER:' 20...Qxf4! The final blow. Neil McDonald: 'The final triumph for a black bishop.' Neil McDonald: 'White resigned as' 21.Qe4 Qg5+

Neil McDonald: 'instead' 22.Qg4 Qf6 23.Re4 and the queen can no longer defend the rook on g1. 23...Rae8

24.Rfe1 also wins 24...Rxe4 (forcing the queen away from the defence of g1) 25.Rxe4 Qb2 leaves White far too much material down.

It's curious how the white pieces are supposed to be the attackers on the kingside but here they turned out to be the targets. Once Black's bishop broke through on g5 they never had enough space. or 26.Be2 Qxa3 27.f6? -2.66/21 Now White is beyond hope.

[White should try 27.Qh4! -0.43/23]

27...Qa1+-+

[Worse is 27...Qxb4 28.Qxg7#]

Neil McDonald: 'ANSWER: If' 28.Kg2?

Neil McDonald: 'the white queen suffocates through lack of space upon' 28...Qxf6 Neil McDonald: '(taking away the f3-square)' 29.f3 -3.94/22

[29.Qf3 -2.45/19 was worth a try.]

29...Qd8 Strongly threatening ...f5.

30.Qf4 g6 traps the white queen! Neil McDonald: '. A pretty picture: the white queen is boxed in and lost.' nominally a blunder, but 31.Bd3 Kg7 is gruesome e.g. 32.h4 h5 – he doesn't even need to

cash in by taking on d2 – 33.Qg5 Re8 threatening mate when. Dodges Re7 34.Qxd8 is met with 34...Rxd8 Endgame. KRB-KRB 35.Re7 Bb8 and wins 36.b5 looks best, as in the Svidler game, 36...axb5! 37.cxb5 Kf6 38.Re4 Ba7 39.Rf4+ Kg7 40.Re4 Bb6 Black has a solid extra pawn. 41.Kg3? as 41...Ra8! 42.Kf4 -5.09/21

[42.Be2 -3.54/20]

42...Ra3 Black is clearly winning. 43.Be2 Bf2 leaves him busted. or 44.Re7 Ra4+! 45.Re4!? Rxe4+ 46.Kxe4 -7.09/26

[46.fxe4 -4.92/20 Kf6 (46...Bxh4? 47.Kf3-+) 47.Kf3 Bxh4 48.Kg2]

46...Bxh4 KB-KB 47.f4 Kh6 is messy, with the black kingside open 48.Bd1?! Be1 49.Bf3 Bc3 50.Bg2 Bb2 51.Bf1 f5+ is OK for White Because White's king is still on c1 (rather than on b1 as in variations given in the note to 16 f4), he can't even get away with losing a pawn after 52.Kf3 g5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.46/ Black=0.25 (precise)

0-1

B00

□ Biolek,R1

2445

■ Polak,Tomas

2525

TCh-CZE 1 Liga Vychod (7.5) 31.01.2016

[Glenn Flear,Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5

[In Christoph Wisniewski's 2007 book (Play 1... Nc6, Everyman books) he prefers 3...f6 which does seem to score well. Maybe this deserves a closer look (keep reading my updates and you never know...!).]

4.Be2N

[4.Ne2 is Wisnewski's recommendation, but it hasn't been played very often. Then e6 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.c3 (6.h4 f6 7.h5 Bf7 8.Bb5 fxe5 9.dxe5 a6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Qe2 Ne7 12.Nd2 c5 13.Nf3 Qd7 14.a4 c4 15.Be3 Nc8 16.Ng5 c5 17.h6 g6 18.Qf3 Rb8 19.Rd1 Qc7 20.N3e4 dxe4 1-0 Kaneda,E (236 (2360)-9. ♔h7 cd4 10. ♕e2 dc3 6/392 United States 1968) 6...h5 7.Bd3 h4 8.Ne2 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 Qd7 10.0-0 Nge7 11.Nd2 Nf5 12.b4 Shukh, N-Vlasenko, M Tolyatti 2011, was only about equal.]

[4.Nf3 e6 5.c3 Nge7 6.Be2 (6.Nbd2 Bg6 7.Nh4 Nf5 8.Nxg6 hxg6 9.g3 Be7 10.Bg2 Qd7 11.Qe2 0-0-0 12.a4 Rh7 13.a5 Rdh8 14.Nf3 B 00/09-N,N 2000) 6...Ng6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.h3 Nh4 10.Nxh4 Bxh4 11.0-0 f6 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Nf3 Qd6 14.Re1 e5 15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Qb3 c6 17.Rad1 Nxf3+ 18.Bxf3 Rf7 ½-½ (32) 12.ef7 ♔f7 13. ♔ d1 ♕ b6 1 (2225)- Warakomska,A (2075) Belgrade Serbia op 2021]

[4.c3 e6 5.Be2 f6 6.f4 g5 7.Bh5+ Kd7 8.fxg5 fxe5 9.Nf3 exd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Qe7 12.g4 Bc2 13.Na3 Bg7 14.Qe3 Be4 15.0-0 Rf8 16.Bd2 Nimzowitch'S Defense-2...d5]

4...e6 5.Nf3 Nge7

[Hitting at the centre with 5...f6 is a logical course of action: 6.Be3 -0.13/21 (♞6.0-0 0.29/21) 6...fxe5 7.dxe5 Bg4 0.72/23 (7...Nge7=-0.21/21) 8.Nbd2± Nge7 9.Ng5 0.12/23 (9.0-0± 0.61/21 is more appropriate.) 9...Nf5!?=

(this required cool-headed calculation). Hoping for ...Nxe3. 10.Nxe6 Nxe3! 11.Nxd8 Nxd1 12.Nxc6 Nxf2 13.Kxf2 Bc5+ 14.Ke1 Bxe2 15.Kxe2 bxc6= Martinovic, Sa-Stevic, H Porec 2014.]

6.0-0 Ng6 1.04/20 The knight later proves to be misplaced here, especially when most of the action takes place on the left-hand side of the board. So it's already worth looking at alternative plans.

[6...h6 0.76/22 6...f6 0.18 7.Re1 0.35/21 (7.a4± 0.76/22) 7...g5± 8.c3 Ng6!

A) if 9.h3 then perhaps Qd7 0.59/24 (9...g4= 0.16/21 was preferable. 10.hxg4 Bxg4) 10.Be3 0-0-0!? with a double-edged fight in prospect;

B) 9.Na3 (I don't like this move, surely White could find something better?) 9...Bxa3 0.54/21 (9...f6= 0.12/21) 10.bxa3± Na5 11.a4 Qe7 0.71/19 (11...a6± 0.31/21) 12.g3 0.00/20 (12.Nd2± 0.71/19) 12...g4 13.Nd2 h5 Getz, A-Gelashvili, T Dallas 2013, with a tense middlegame in prospect.]

[Otherwise 6...Bg4 (here the bishop is arguably more useful, but is it worth a tempo?) 7.Nbd2 Qd7 8.h3 Bh5 9.c3 f6 10.Re1 Bf7 (Black has lost a great deal of time with this piece) 11.Nf1?! 1.07/22 (more to the point is 11.b4! a6 12.exf6 gxf6 13.a4 Bg7 14.Nb3 when White is better; 11.Nb3+- 1.64/21) 11...fxe5± 12.dxe5 Ng6 13.Bd3 Be7 Vamos, V-Held, M Budapest 1996, and Black has a slight space disadvantage, but is otherwise OK.]

[6...f6± 0.36/22]

7.c4 0.26/21

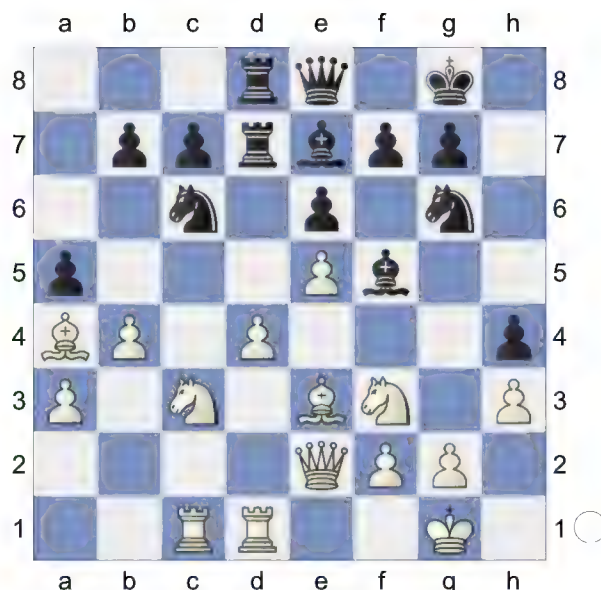
[White should try 7.Ne1!± 1.04/20]

7...dxc4= 8.Bxc4 White is slightly better. **8...Be7**

[In a previous game, Black again decided to redeploy his bishop:

8...Bg4 White must now prevent ...**Bxf3. 9.Be3 Nh4** (making some use of the potentially 'offside' knight)**10.Nbd2 Bb4 0.63/19** (**10...Nxf3+= 0.15/23** might be stronger. **11.Nxf3****Ne7**) **11.h3 Bxd2?! 1.09/22** (I prefer**11...Bh5!** with near equality; **11...Bh5= 0.30/21** remains equal. **12.Qa4 Bxd2****13.Nxd2 0-0**) **12.hxg4± Bxe3****13.fxe3 0-0** Bucinkas, V-Bucinkas, L Lithuanian league 2014, with a pull to White after **14.Rc1**]**9.Be3 0-0 10.Nc3** The structure reminds me of a line in the Queen's Gambit Accepted, except that the king's knight would be on b6 or d5. I prefer it on b6 (rather than g6), but Polak decides to use the game position of the knight to challenge for space on the kingside.**10...h5 0.86/20**[**10...Bg4± 0.35/21**]**11.a3± h4 1.25/20** It's often a nice feeling to push the h-pawn, but such action could rebound on one later.[**Δ11...a6 0.83/20**]**12.h3 Qd7 1.63/18**[**12...a6± 1.26/20** might work better.**13.Bb3 Na5**]**13.Qe2+- Rfd8 14.Rfd1** Black lacks counterplay whereas White's space advantage isn't going to go away.**14...Qe8 15.b4 a6 16.Bb3 Rd7****17.Rac1 Rad8 18.Ba4!** There is no rush. Probing away without risking very much is a good plan. White is more active. **18...a5!?**

(Diagram)

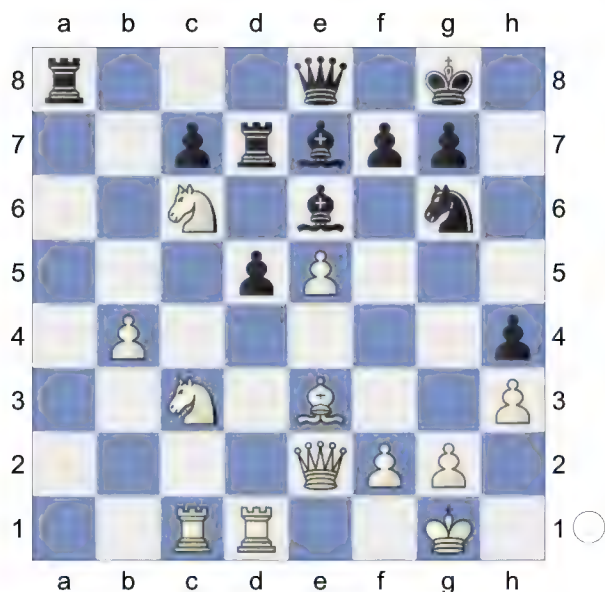
A valiant try, but not good enough to free his position. **19.d5!** 0.34/20

Freeing the d4-square for a knight.

19...exd5± 20.Bxc6 bxc6 21.Nd4!**axb4 22.axb4**[**22.Nxf5 bxc3 23.Rxc3 Bf8** (**23...Nxe5 24.Bd4=**) **24.Rxc6 Qxe5±** (**24...Bxa3 25.Bd4±; 24...Nxe5 25.Rc3±**)]**22...Be6 23.Nxc6** Regaining the pawn and installing the knight on a highly influential outpost. **23...Ra8?! 2.12/19**[Black could at least partially free his game with **23...d4!** **24.Rxd4 Rxd4 25.Nxd4** aiming for **Ncb5. Bxb4** but White is still for preference after **26.Ncb5**][**23...d4!= 0.30/22** and Black has nothing to worry. **24.Nxd4 Bxb4**]

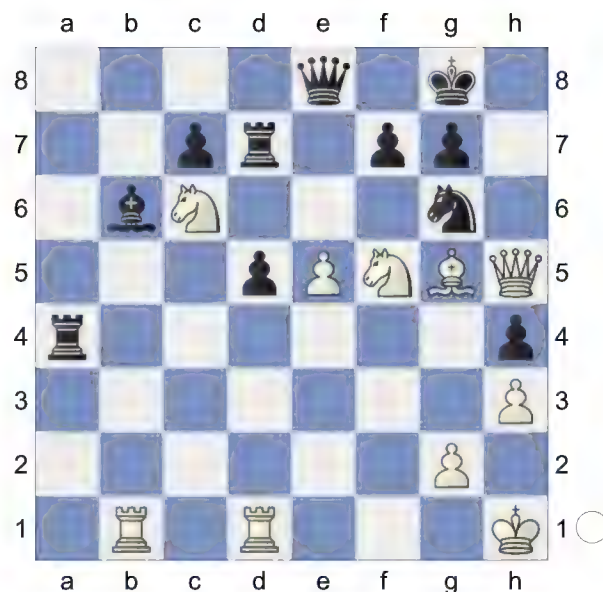
(Diagram)

24.Nb5!+- The white cavalry keep Black's whole army quiet. And now **Nbd4** would win. **24...Bf8 2.62/21**[**Δ24...d4 1.66/17 25.Rxd4** (**25.Ncxd4 Bxb4 26.Nxc7 Rxc7+-;**



25.Nbxd4 Bd5±) 25...Bf8]
25.Qh5!? 1.45/18
 [The reinforcing 25.Nbd4 would also be highly unpleasant for Black.]
 [25.Nbd4+- 2.62/21]
25...Ra2? 3.31/19 Black cannot hold the game after this.
 [25...d4± 1.45/18 26.Ncxd4 (26.Nbxd4 Bd5±) 26...Rc8]
26.Nbd4 Ra3 27.Bg5 Ra4 28.f4!
 Black is all at sea with White preparing his pawn-tsunami.
 [28.Bxh4 Rxb4 29.Nxb4 Bxb4]
28...Bxb4 29.f5
 [29.Bxh4 Nxf4 30.Qg5 Ng6=]
29...Bxf5 Black has no choice but to give up the bishop. **30.Nxf5** A dynamic duo of knights. **30...Ba3 4.52/21**
 [Δ30...Bf8 3.22/19 31.Nfd4 (31.Bxh4 Nxb4 32.Nxb4 Ba3+-; 31.Nxb4 Nxe5 32.Nxe5 Qxe5±) 31...Ra8]
31.Rb1 Bc5+ 32.Kh1 Bb6 9.16/19
 [Δ32...Ra8 4.21/18 33.Re1 (33.Bxh4 Qe6+-; 33.Nxb4 Nf8+-) 33...Ba3]

(Diagram)



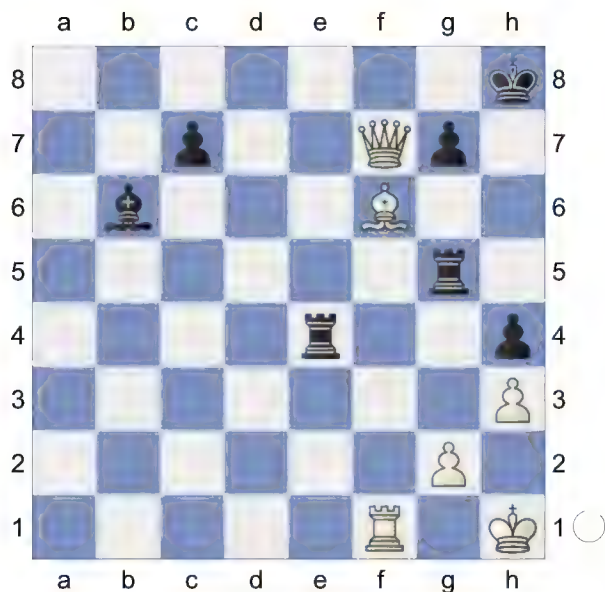
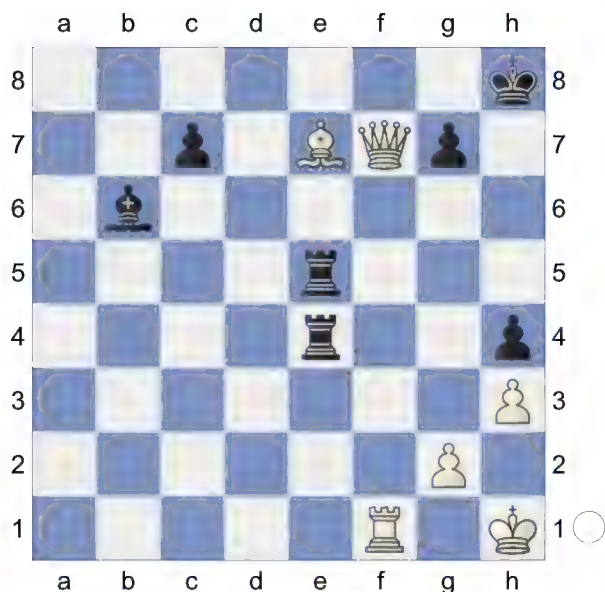
Avoiding R-b8 but, even so, White can now win in various ways. **33.Rxd5 3.67/17 Rxd5 34.Nfe7+**
 [Resist 34.Nce7+ Nxe7 35.Nxe7+ Qxe7 36.Bxe7 Rda5]
34...Nxe7
 [Stronger than 34...Kf8 35.Nxg6+ (35.Nxd5 Qxc6 36.Rd1 Rd4=) 35...fxg6 36.Qh8+ Kf7 37.Rf1+]
35.Nxe7+ Qxe7 36.Bxe7 As it was a team tournament, Black was determined to last until move forty, but he could of resigned already. **36...Re4 11.06/22**
 [Δ36...Ra2 4.65/19 37.Bxh4 Rad2]
37.Rf1
 [Not 37.Bxh4 Rdxe5 38.Bg5 f6±]
37...Rdxe5 38.Qxf7+ White mates.
38...Kh8

(Diagram)

39.Bf6! Rg5

(Diagram)

40.Bxg7+! Rxg7 41.Qh5+
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/



Black=0.55
1-0

□ Khamdamova, Afruza

■ Priyanka, Nutakki

Swiss Queens Wed #18 blitz (2) 29.5.24
[Kitty Kat]

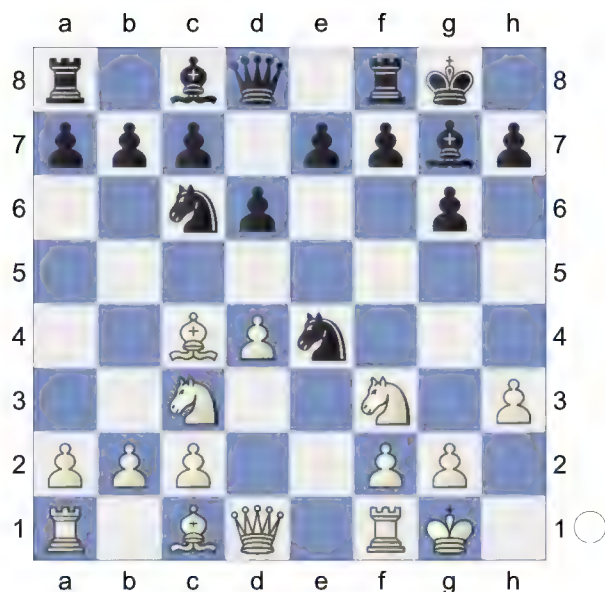
B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3
g6 5.Bc4 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 Nxe4!

B08

2268

2355



Decoy 8.Bxf7+ 8.Nxe4 is more advanced technology. 8.Sxe4 is hochmodern. 8...Rxf7 9.Nxe4 Rxf3N 1.14/19

[9...d5]

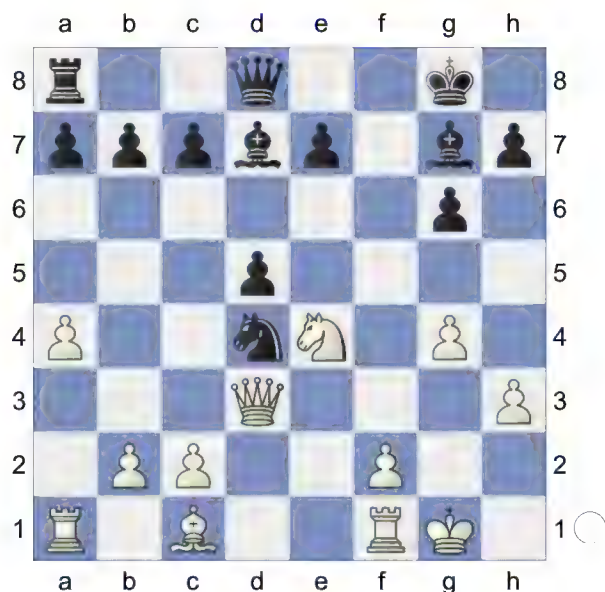
10.Qxf3± White is better. 10...Nxd4 11.Qd3 Bf5 1.49/24

[⚡11...d5 0.81/19 12.Ng3 Nf5]

12.c3N

[Vorgänger: 12.g4 0.24/24

12.Be3 1.27 Bd7 13.a4 d5 0.83/25
(13...Qc8± 0.45/22)



14.Nc5 -0.03/22 (14.Ng5!± 0.83/25

Black must now prevent c3.e6
 15.Be3) 14...e5= And now ...e4 would
 win. 15.f3! Threatens to win with c3!
 Bc6 Hoping for ...Qh4. 16.c3 e4
 17.fxe4 dxe4 18.Qd1? -4.48/18
 0-1 Baier, C (1887)-Schmidt, P
 (2085) Mecklenburg VP LL2 Ost 1011
 2010 (5.1) (18.Nxe4= -0.01/18
 and White has nothing to worry. Nb3
 19.Qxd8+ Remove Defender Rxd8
 20.Bg5]]

12...Nc6 13.Qe2 Qd7 14.Kh2 0.31/22

[White should play 14.Ng3± 1.21/19]

14...Rf8 0.77/20

[14...Qe6± 0.31/22 feels stronger.
 15.Re1 Rf8]

15.Ng3± Be6 16.Bd2 -0.02/19

[16.Re1± 0.73/20 Ne5 17.Bg5]

16...a6 1.11/23

[16...Ne5!= -0.02/19]

17.b3 Black is now going downhill.

17...Bf7 18.f4 e6 19.Rae1 White is
 more active. 19...h6 20.Qd3 Ne7
 1.96/18

[20...Kh7± 1.41/18 21.Be3 a5]

21.c4+- e5? 4.41/18

[21...d5 1.85/19 22.cxd5 Nxd5]

22.fxe5 Nc6 23.exd6 cxd6 24.Bc3
 Qc7 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.Qc3+ Ne5

27.Ne4 Re8 28.Qd4 Re6 29.Nxd6
 Remove Defender 29...Kh7 10.35/20

[⊔29...Qxd6 4.26/20 30.Qxd6
 Remove Defender Rxd6 31.Rxe5
 Be6]

30.Rxe5 Rxd6 31.Qf4 4.82/18

[⊔31.Rxf7+ 11.14/21 Qxf7 32.Qxd6
 Qf4+ 33.Kg1 Qc1+ 34.Kf2 Qf4+
 35.Ke2 Qf7 36.Re7 Pin]

31...Bg8 7.49/19

[⊔31...Rd7 4.82/18 32.Kg1 Qd6]

32.Re8 Qd7 33.Qf8

Weighted Error Value: White=0.43/

Black=0.66

1-0

B08

□ Mammadova, Gulnar Marfat Qizi

■ Priyanka, Nutakki 2272

Swiss Queens Wed #14 blitz (11) 1.5.24
 [Kitty Kat]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3
 g6 5.h3 Bg7 6.Be2

[6.Bg5 0-0 7.d5 Nb8 8.Qd2 c6
 9.Bh6 Bxh6 10.Qxh6 Qb6 11.0-0-0
 Qxf2 12.Bd3 Nbd7 13.Rdf1 Qc5
 14.Ng5 Veselsky (2572)-Csanadi
 (2432) Yerevan (ol) 68/128 1996]

6...0-0 7.Be3 a6! is now more
 promising than 7...e5.im Vergleich zu 7...
 e5 vielversprechender. 8.d5N

[8.a4 e6 9.0-0 b6 10.Qd2 Bb7
 11.Bh6 Nb4 12.Bd3 Nxd3 13.Bxg7
 Kxg7 14.Qxd3 Qe7 15.Rfe1 e5
 16.Rad1 Rfe8 17.d5 Nh5 18.Ne2 a5
 19.c4 h6 20.g4 Nf6 21.Ng3 Rh8
 22.Nh4 Bc8 0-1 (34) Barnes, O (1915)-
 O'Donnell, C (2285) IRL-ch 103rd 2024
 (2)]

8...Nb8 9.a4 White is slightly better.

9...e6 10.dxe6 Bxe6 11.Nd4 Bd7

12.0-0 Nc6 13.f3 Re8N

[Vorgänger: 13...Nh5 14.Nxc6 bxc6
 15.Qe1 Re8 16.g4 Nf6 17.Qh4
 -0.21/22 (17.Qd2 0.28/19
 was preferable.) 17...a5 0.31/17
 (Black should play 17...Rb8= -0.21/22)
 18.Bg5± Qe7 19.f4 -0.63/17
 (19.Bd3± 0.56/19) 19...h6! 20.Bxh6

Black must now prevent Bg5. Nxe4
 21.Qxe7 Rxe7 22.Bxg7 Kxg7
 23.Nxe4 Rxe4 0-1 Veljanoski, A
 (2189)-Nogerbek, K (2437) Novi Sad

Serbia op-A 2022 (1)]

14.Nxc6 -0.07/20

[14.Qd2± 0.37/20]

14...Bxc6= 15.Qd2 -0.72/19

[15.Bd4= -0.07/22 keeps the balance.]

15...d5 16.Bg5! d4 0.19/20

[16...dxe4 17.Qxd8 Raxd8 18.fxe4=]

[Better is 16...Qd6 0.65/21]

17.Nd1= Qd7 18.Bd3 -0.45/18

[18.a5= 0.21/19]

18...Bxa4 19.Nf2 c5 20.b3

aiming for Bxf6! 20...Bc6 21.Qf4 Nh5

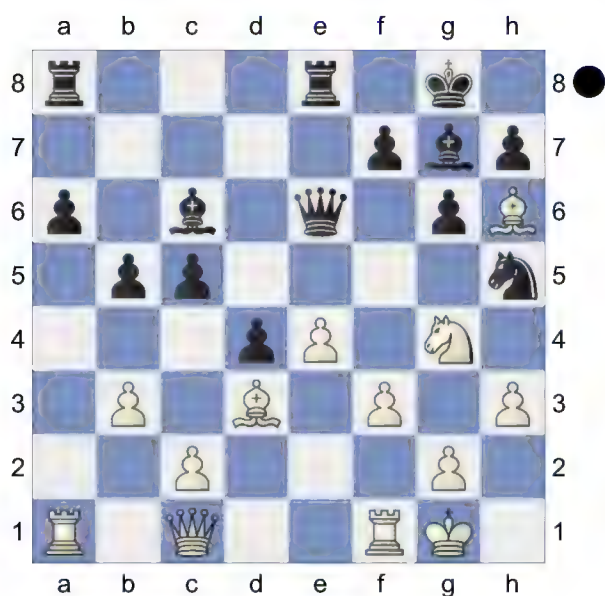
Black converts the advantage convincingly. 22.Qc1 -1.29/21

[White should try 22.Qh4 0.70/20]

22...b5 Black is more active. 23.Ng4

Qe6 Threatens to win with ...c4. 24.Bh6 -1.87/21

[24.Re1 1.09/18]

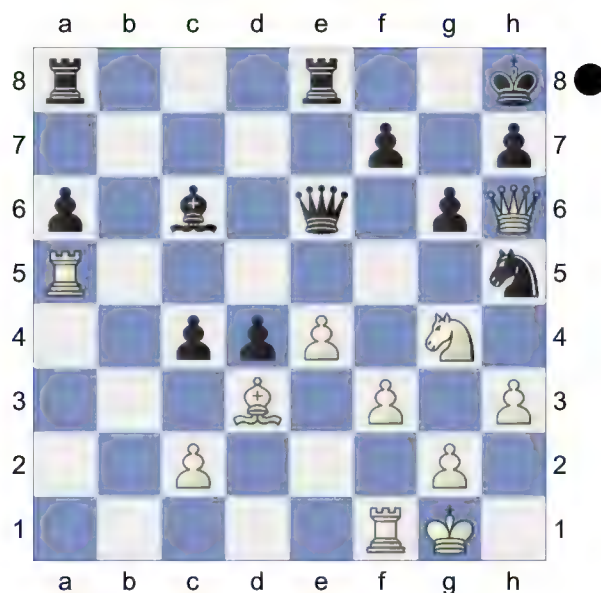


24...c4!+ 25.Bxg7 Kxg7

[25...Nxc6 26.bxc4 bxc4 27.Bxc4 Qxc4 28.Nf6+ Kf8 29.Qa3+ (29.Nxh7+ Ke7) 29...Re7 30.Nxh7+ Kg8 31.Nf6+ Kf8 32.Nh7+ Kg8 33.Nf6+ Kf8 34.Nh7+=]

26.bxc4 bxc4 27.Qh6+ Kh8 28.Ra5? -3.67/20

[28.Be2 -1.66/18 was the only defense.]



28...Bb5!

[28...cxd3? 29.Rxh5 gxh5 30.Nf6+-]

29.Be2 d3 30.Rxb5 axb5 Black is clearly winning.

[Not 30...dxe2 31.Rxh5 gxh5 (31...exf1R+ 32.Kxf1 gxh5 33.Nf6+-) 32.Nf6 Qb6+ (32...exf1R+ 33.Kxf1±) 33.Kh2 exf1N+ (33...exf1R 34.Qxh7#) 34.Kh1 Ng3+ 35.Kh2 Nf1+ 36.Kh1 Ng3+ 37.Kh2 Nf1+=]

31.cxd3 Ng3 32.e5 Nxe2+ 33.Kh2 f5

34.exf6 Qf7 Inhibits Qg7+.

[Stronger than 34...cxd3 35.Qg7#]

35.dxc4 bxc4 36.Qf4 Nxf4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/ Black=0.10 (very precise)

0-1

B00
2650
2519
 Olympiad-36 Mallorca (3) 17.10.2004
[Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

Mikhaletz, L; Okhotnik, V: 'Inf 75/(76)'
 1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.Be2 e6 6.h3 Bh5 7.d5 exd5 8.exd5 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 White is better. 9...Ne5 10.Be2 Be7 11.0-0 0.78/23

[White should play 11.Be3 1.20/21]

11...0-0 12.a4N

[12.Be3 a6 13.Qd2 Nfd7 14.f4 Ng6 15.Ne4 Nf6 (15...Nc5 16.Nxc5 dxc5 17.c4 Re8 18.Bd3 Qd6 B 00/06-N,N 2000) 16.Ng3 Re8 17.c4 Bf8 18.Bd3 c6 19.Bxg6 fxd6 20.f5 cxd5 21.cxd5 Re5 22.fxd6 hxd6 23.Bd4 Rxd5 24.Qc3 Be7 25.Bxf6 Qb6+ 26.Kh2 Bxf6 (30) Kozakov, M (2420)- Mikhaletz, L (2485) Racibórz 1999 27.Rxf6 gxf6 28.Qxf6 Qc7 29.Qxg6+ Qg7 30.Qe6+ Qf7 Kazakov, M (2420)- Mikhaletz, L (2485) 75/(76) Racibórz 1999]

12...a6 13.Be3 Nfd7 14.a5 Black is weak on the light squares 14...Ng6 15.Ra4 Nc5 16.Ra3 Bg5 17.Bxc5 dxc5 18.Ne4 Be7 19.Rc3 Re8 20.Bf3 [20.Nxc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5 Qe7+]

20...Bd6 1.08/20

[20...c4± 0.58/25]

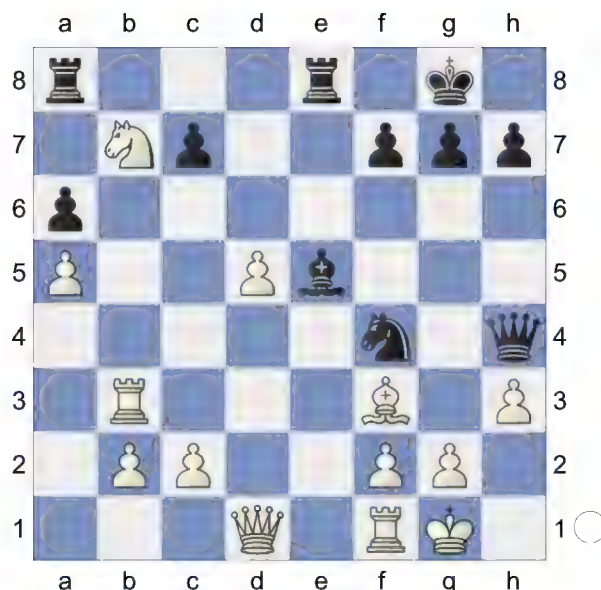
21.Nxc5± Qh4 2.39/21

[21...Rb8± 1.24/20 was necessary.]

22.Nxb7+- Be5 23.Rb3 Nf4 3.32/20

[23...Rab8 2.29/17 24.g3 Qxh3]

(Diagram)



24.g3!

[24.d6 Nxe3+ 25.gxe3 Qxe3 26.Re1 Bh2+ 27.Kh1 Bg3+ (27...cxd6? 28.Bg2+-) 28.Kg1 Qh2+ 29.Kf1 Qxf2#]

24...Qxe3 25.d6? 0.00/23

[25.gxf4 Bxf4 26.Re1 Bh2+ 27.Kh1 Bg3+ 28.Kg1 Qh2+ 29.Kf1 Qxf2#] [25.Re3+- 3.14/22]

25...Re6!→ Black attacks. 26.dxc7? -4.36/24

[26.gxf4 is a self mate. Bxf4 (26...Bxd6? 27.Bg4+-) 27.Re1 Bh2+ (27...Bxd6? 28.Bg2+-; 27...Rg6+? 28.Bg4+-) 28.Kh1 Bg3+ (28...Bxd6+ 29.Kg1 Bh2+ 30.Kh1 Bg3+ Discovered Attack (Check) 31.Kg1 Qh2+ 32.Kf1 Qxf2#) 29.Kg1 Qh2+ 30.Kf1 Qxf2#]

[26.d7= 0.00/23 and White is okay. Rd8 27.Re1 (27.Nxd8 Rh6 28.Re1 Qh2+ 29.Kf1 Qh1+ Back Rank 30.Bxh1 Rxh1#)]

26...Bxc7+ 27.Qd7

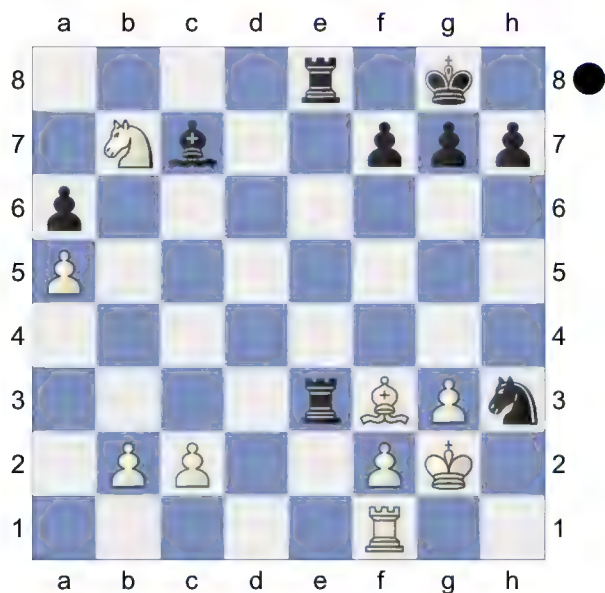
[27.gxf4 leads to mate. Bxf4 (27...Rg6+? 28.Bg4+-; 27...Rg6+? 28.Bg4+-)]



Threatens to win with Nc5! 27...Rae8!
(-> ...Qxf1+) 28.Re3

[28.Qxc7? gets mated. Qxf1+ 29.Kh2
Qxf2+ 30.Kh1 Re1#]

28...Rxe3 Discovered Attack 29.Qxh3
Nhx3+ 30.Kg2



Rxf3 Black is clearly winning. 31.Kxf3
Ng5+ 32.Kg2 Re2 Never resign too
early!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/
Black=0.13 (very precise)

0-1

C30
2402
Urkedal,Frode Olav Olsen
NOR-ch Tromsø (3) 11.07.2016
[Schandorff,Lars, MH]

C30: King's Gambit Declined

1.e4 Nc6

[1...e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3
d6 5.f4 Be6 6.Bxe6 fxe6 7.Nf3 Nc6
(7...exf4) 8.Na4 Bb6 9.Nxb6 axb6
10.fxe5 dxe5]

2.Nc3 e5 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.f4
d6N

[5...exf4 6.Bxf4 d6 7.Nf3 Bg4
8.Qd2 Qe7 9.0-0-0 0-0-0 10.Bg5
Be6 11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.Bxd5 h6
13.Bxc6 hxg5 14.Ba4 g4 15.Ng5
Nd5 16.Rde1 Ne3 17.Rxe3 Bxe3
18.Qxe3 Kb8 19.e5 d5 20.e6
1-0 (34) 3. d2 e5 4. gf3 d6 5.g
(2351)-The Italian Four Knights Game
RUS-ch sf Novosibirsk 1998 (7)]

6.Nf3 Be6 0.52/22

[6...a5= -0.06/20]

7.Bxe6

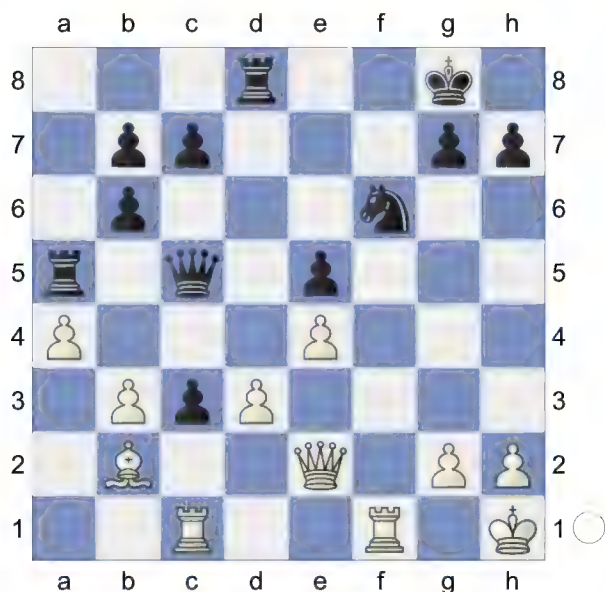
[7.Bb5]

7...fxe6 8.Na4 Bb6 9.Nxb6 White is
slightly better.Tries to exploit the extra
bishop move Black has just made.
Alternatives could be 9.0-0 or even 9.
d3!?, but in both cases White should
be ready to meet 9...h5! grabbing the
bishop pair. 9...axb6 10.fxe5 dxe5
11.0-0 0-0 12.Bd2 White has a slight
initiative. He has the two breaks c3-c4
or e3-e4 in store. Whether they give
anything is a different question.

[12.Bg5? Qe8!+- (12...Qd6) 13.Qe1
Qg6 14.Qh4 Nd7 15.Qg3 0.46/23
(15.Be3± 0.98/20)]

[12.b3 Qd6 13.Bb2 Rfd8 0.66/26
(13...Nd7= 0.18/25) 14.Qe2

(14.Kh1) 14...Qc5+ 15.Kh1 Ra5?
 1.80/21 (15...Nd4= 0.28/20 16.Nxd4
 exd4) 16.a4 0.76/20 (16.a3+-
 1.80/21 Threatens to win with b4.
 Raa8 17.b4) 16...Nd4± 17.Nxd4
 exd4 18.c3 -0.04/21 (18.Ba3!±
 1.06/19 Qe5 19.Be7) 18...dxc3=
 19.Rac1 e5? 2.31/21 (19...Qh5!=
 -0.04/21 and Black has nothing to
 worry. 20.Qxh5 Rxh5 21.Rxc3 Rc5
 22.Rxc5 bxc5)



20.Bxc3? 0.62/19 (20.b4!+- 2.31/21
 Qxb4 21.Bxc3)]

12...Qd6 Forcing the play. 13.Bc3 Nd7
 14.a3 Nd4 15.Qd2 -0.10/21

[15.Kh1± 0.33/22 should be
 considered.]

15...Nxf3+= 16.Rxf3 Rxf3 17.gxf3 Rf8
 18.Rf1 c5

[18...Rf4 feels hotter. 19.Kf2 Nf8
 20.Rg1 Ng6]

19.Qg5 h6

[19...Rf6=]

20.Qg3 Rf7 21.a4 Qc6 0.82/22

[21...c4= 0.11/20]

22.b3± White has some pull. 22...b5

23.axb5

[23.Bxe5 bxa4 24.bxa4 c4±

(24...Qxa4 25.Rf2±)]

23...Qxb5 24.Kh1 0.58/24

[24.Bxe5 c4 25.Bd6 cxb3

(25...cxd3 26.cxd3 Qxd3 27.Kg2±)

26.cxb3 Qxd3± (26...Qxb3 27.d4±)]

[White should try 24.Kg2± 0.94/24]

24...Qa6 Now Black is fine. 25.Rg1

White is more active. 25...Qa2 26.Qg2

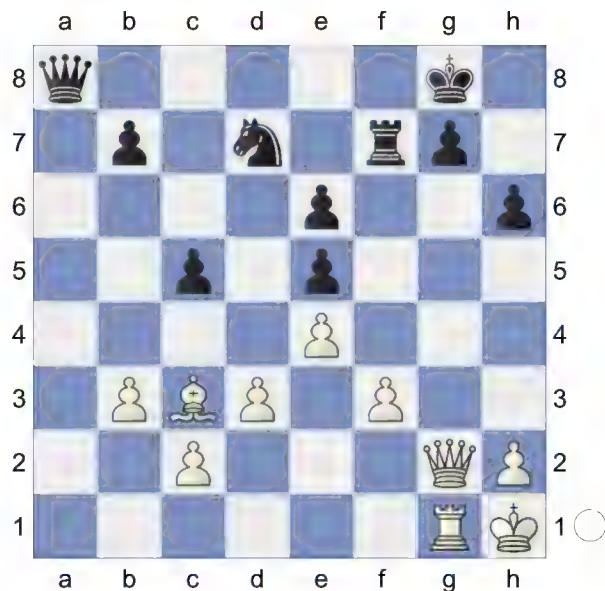
[26.Bxe5 Nxe5 (26...Qxc2?

27.Bxg7+-) 27.Qxe5 Qxc2 28.Qb8+

Rf8 29.Qxb7 Qb2= (29...Qxd3

30.Qxg7#)]

26...Qa8



27.f4 0.00/31 Qf8= 28.Qh3

[28.fxe5 Rf2 29.Qh3 Rxc2±]

[Don't play 28.Bxe5 Nxe5 29.fxe5
 Rf2±]

28...Rxf4 29.Qxe6+ Qf7 30.Qxf7+

[30.Qxh6 Rf2 31.Qh3 Rxc2]

30...Kxf7 Endgame. KRB-KRN 31.Be1

Rf6 32.Kg2 Ra6 33.Kf3 Ra2 34.Rg2

Nb8 35.Kg4 Nc6 36.Rf2+ Kg6

Black wants to play ...Nd4. 37.Bc3 Nd4

38.Bxd4 cxd4 KR-KR 39.Kg3 Rb2

40.Kg2 -0.45/29

[40.b4= -0.01/29]

40...Ra2 -0.06/25

[40...h5± -0.45/29 feels stronger.]

41.c4 Ra1 42.b4 The position is equal.
42...Rb1 43.b5 to go to f4 looks promising. After all both white knights can't be on the great d4-square.
43...Rb3± The modest **44.Rf3** came into consideration. **44...Rb1** is possible. Probably it doesn't give White anything. The following game didn't reveal much information though.
45.h3 Rb2+ 46.Kf1 h5 47.h4 Rb1+ 48.Ke2 Rh1 49.Kf2 Rxh4 50.Kg2 Wards off Rh2+ **50...Rg4+ 51.Kh2 Rh4+ 52.Kg2 ½-½ (17)** Sandipan,C (2572)-Timofeev,A (2596) Barcelona 2016. aiming for c5. **52...Rg4+ 53.Kh2**
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
 ½-½

B00

□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2628**
 ■ **Eid,Fadi** **2338**
 5th Asian Indoor 2017 (1.5) 21.09.2017
[Flear,Glenn, Kitty Kat]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.Be3

[Here's a novel way of meeting 5.Bb5 i.e. Nd7!? (a Lazic speciality that varies from the main move 5...a6)]

A) 6.d5 Ncb8 7.Be3 c6 8.Be2 Nf6 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3± g6 (White has more options here, but how to continue...?) 11.g4!? Bg7 12.Qd2 cxd5 13.exd5 Nbd7 14.g5 Nh5!? (14...Ne5 15.Be2 Nfd7?? 16.f4!+-) 15.Bxh5 gxh5 16.f4 Rc8 Nestorovic, N - Lazic, M Ruma 2017, with a White advantage, but maybe not as much as the engines

seem to indicate;

B) 6.Be3 e5 (6...e6 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 a6 9.Ba4 b5 10.Bb3 Na5 11.d5 e5 (a Spanish of some sort, perhaps?) 12.0-0 Be7 13.Ne2 0-0 Sedina, E - Lazic, M Turin 2002, offered nothing special for White) 7.d5 Ncb8 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 (the bishop pair and easy development undoubtedly means that White is for preference) Be7 10.Qg3 0-0 11.0-0 Kh8 12.a4 a5 13.Ra3!? Nf6 14.Rb3± Sumets, A - Lazic, M Algiers 2015, with nagging pressure.]

5...e5 6.d5 Ne7

[Retreating via b8 is certainly typical in many positions where White advances with d4-d5 hitting the c6-knight. Here however it seems a shade slow: 6...Nb8 **1.28/20** 6...Ne7 0.84 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nbd7 9.g4 g6 10.0-0-0 a6 11.h4 h5 12.g5! Ng8 13.Bh3 Boudriga, M - Karttunen, M Tromso Olympiad 2014, and White was much better. Black will miss his light-squared bishop.]

7.h3 Bd7 The best choice of squares.

[Going the other way is untrustworthy: 7...Bh5?! **1.91/20** 7...Bd7 0.86 8.g4! Bg6 9.Nd2 Nd7 **2.19/21** (Δ9...a6 **1.78/20** 10.g5 Nd7) 10.Be2 c6 11.h4 (chastising the bishop and gaining space). Threatens to win with h5. f6 **2.05/21** (Δ11...cxd5 **1.64/22** 12.exd5 h6) 12.Nc4 Nc8 13.g5 Fercec, N - Fattorich, I Porec 2004, with a strong initiative.]

8.Nd2

[The following demonstrates that White had aggressive intentions, but that his early g4 left holes: 8.g4!? h6 9.Qd2 Ng6 10.0-0-0 Be7 11.Rg1

play 19...b6 which denies his opponent the opportunity that arises in the game.]

20.Bxa7! What cheek! Now it's all down to calculation.

[20.Bd4 simplifies b6 21.Kc1 Rf7 22.Kb2]

20...Bxc3+ 21.Qxc3 Bb6 is the strong threat.

[21.Kxc3? is the wrong capture. Qa5+ 22.Kb2 Qxa7-+]

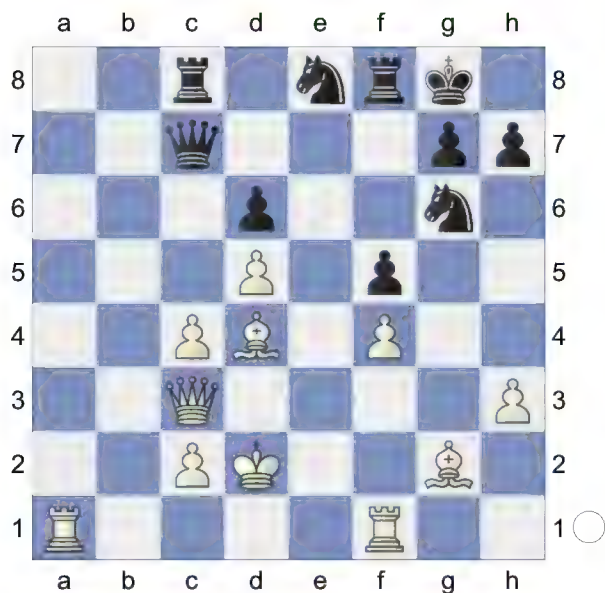
21...b5! 22.axb5 Bxb5 23.Bb6!

An important intermediate move.

23...Qb8 24.Bd4↑ White has the initiative. **24...Bxc4**

[The more patient 24...Rf7 with a timely ...Rfc7 in mind, looks more to the point. Black has adequate practical compensation, especially as he has the safer king.]

25.bxc4 Qc7



26.c5!? 0.00/24 White has more active pieces. The black rooks are passive.

26...dxc5 27.Be5 This pair of bishops is nice. **27...Nd6 28.Ra6 Nxe5** 0.78/20

[The calm 28...Rcd8! is safest with no real problems.]

[28...Rcd8= 0.00/22 keeps the

balance.]

29.fxe5± Ne4+ 5.16/19 Panic stations!

[He had to play 29...Qe7! when the threat of ...Qg5+ keeps him alive.]

[29...Qe7± 0.75/25 30.Rxd6 Qg5+ 31.Qe3 Qxg2+ 32.Rf2 Qg1]

30.Bxe4+- White is clearly winning.

30...fxe4 31.d6 Qb7 32.Qb3+!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.37

[If Black were to play on then 32.Qb3+ Qxb3 33.Rxf8+ Kxf8 34.cxb3 Kf7 35.Ra7+ and the two connected passers will ensure the win.]

1-0

□ **Belkhodja, Slim** C60 2366

■ **Kambrath, Yannick** 2375

Noisiel op 5th

04.09.2021

[Kambrath, Y, MH]

C60: Ruy Lopez: Unusual Black 3rd moves and 3...g6

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.Nc3 d6

[4...g6 5.d4 exd4 6.Nd5 Bg7 7.Bg5]

5.d4 a6 6.Be2

[6.Bc4 b5 7.Be2 exd4 8.Nd5 0.37/20 (8.Nxd4± 0.79/25 Nxd4 9.Qxd4) 8...Ne5!± 9.Qxd4 c5 10.Qd1 Nxd5 11.Qxd5 Be6 12.Qd1 Be7 Dodges Ng5 13.0-0 0-0 14.c3 Qb6]

6...exd4

[6...Nxd4 7.Nxd4 exd4 8.Qxd4]

7.Nxd4

[7.Nd5 0.18/22 7.Nxd4 0.70 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne5 0.49/23 (8...Nb4= 0.09/24) 9.Nxd4 Be7]

7...Nxd4 8.Qxd4 White is better. **8...Nc6**

9.Qe3N

[9.Qd3

A) 9...Nb4 10.Qd1 g6 11.Be3
(11.a3 Nc6 12.Be3 Bg7 13.Qd2
Be6 14.0-0 0-0 15.Rae1 Qd7
16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.exd5 Ne7
18.Bd4 Nf5 19.Bxg7 Nxb7
20.Qb4 a5 21.Qc3 Rfe8 22.h3 h5
23.Bd3 Rxe1 24.Rxe1 b6 25.b4
axb4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (32) Skopec,L (2671)-8.

0-0 0-0 9.  b3 a6 (2530) Petroff
Mem Open 2000 (4.20)) 11...Bg7
12.Qd2 Be6 13.0-0 0-0 14.f4
Nge7 Cozio-3...Nge7 4. Nc3 d6 #2;

B) 9...g6 10.h4 Bg7 **1.30/20**
(Black should try 10...Nb4 **0.83/21**
11.Qd1 h6) 11.Bg5!± f6 12.Be3
Be6 13.Nd5 Qd7 **1.30/21**
(Δ 13...h5 **0.94/20**) 14.0-0-0
0.65/19 (14.h5!± **1.30/21** Rf8
15.0-0-0) 14...f5 **1.36/21**
(14...h5!± **0.65/19**) 15.h5]

9...g6 10.Qg5 0.13/20

[10.Qg3

A) 10...Bg7 11.Bc4 **-0.15/22**
(11.Bg5± **0.68/19** f6 12.Bf4)
11...Be6;

B) 10...Be6 11.Nd5 Bg7!
Prevents Qc3. 12.Bg5 **-0.01/23**
(12.h4± **0.37/20**
is more appropriate.) 12...f6=
13.Be3 Qd7 14.0-0-0 Qf7 15.h4
f5]

[10.Bd2± **0.57/21**]

10...h6 11.Qg3

[11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 (11...Nxd8 **0.56/22**
11...Kxd8 0.13 12.Nd5 Is the other
option. Ne6 13.f4) 12.Be3 Bg7
White will try to go Nh2 Ng4 and mate
black but with a B on h7 it will be a
difficult task.]

11...Be6

[11...Bg7 12.Bc4 **-0.06/21** (12.0-0±
0.52/22) 12...0-0 13.0-0 (13.Qxg6?

-1.77/20 13.0-0 0.00 Now Nfd7 can
be played as black did not rush to put
his other N to d7. Ne5) 13...Ne5
0.52/20 (13...Kh7= **-0.01/17**) 14.Bb3±
Be6 (14...Kh7 **0.88/17** 14...Be6 0.48
15.f4 Nc6 0-1 (46) Gofshtein,L (2480)-
Svetushkin,D (2597) Eilat 2012 16.f5)
15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Qh3]

12.0-0 Ne7

[12...Bg7 13.Nd5 **0.31/22** (Δ 13.f4!
0.70/20) 13...0-0 14.c3 Re8]

13.Be3? Giving away the B and all the
dark squares gives black a clear
advantage.

[13.Nd5 Nxd5 (13...Bg7 14.Nf4)
14.exd5 Bxd5 15.Re1 Be7! 16.Bf3
Bxf3 17.Qxf3]

13...Bg7 Dodges Bd4 **14.Rad1 Qd7!?**
I thought this move was quite interesting
as it takes away both c4 and e4 square
for white's N. Black will now try to put
some pressure on the dark squares and
on the c2 pawn. **15.Bd4** Trying to
consolidate the N on e5 but creates an
additional weakness on e3. **15...Bxd4**
16.Rxd4 0-0-0 17.b4? b5 would now be
deadly. **17...Qc6 1.92/21**

[17...Nc6 18.Rd2 aiming for b5. Nxb4
2.31/21 (18...Qe7± **1.00/21**)
19.Rb1!+- Nc6 20.Nd5]

[17...Nc6± **0.84/20** is a better
defense. 18.Rd2 Nxb4]

18.Rfd1 1.38/18

[18.a4? **-0.44/19** 18.Rb1 1.56 Qb6!
19.Rfd1! Threatens to win with a5.
Nc6]

[18.Rb1+- **1.92/21**]

18...g5 1.81/19

[18...Qb6± **1.38/18**]

19.a4+- Ng6 2.50/20

[Δ 19...Qb6 **1.68/20**]

20.Bf1 Ne5 2.40/21

[Δ 20...h5 **1.95/18**]

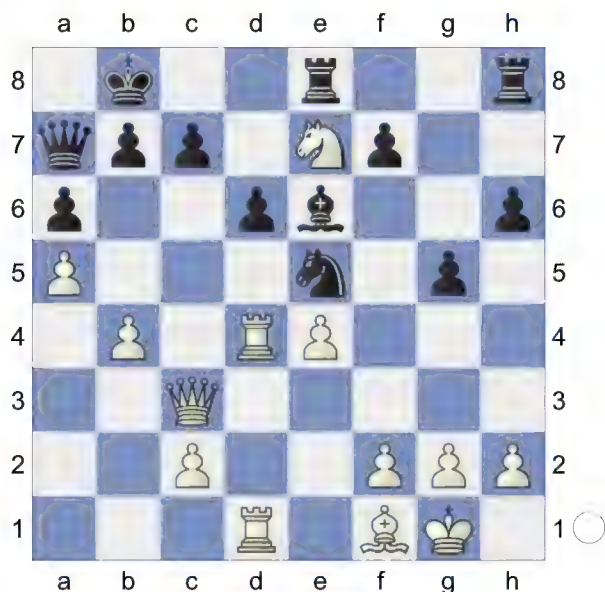
21.Qe3

[21.b5 axb5 22.axb5 Qc5 3.07/21
 (22...Qb6 1.95/21 was necessary.
 23.Qe3 c5) 23.Na4+- Qxc2 24.b6
 2.06/18 (Δ 24.Qa3 3.86/20)]

21...Qb6! A strong move that finishes
 the game **22.a5 Qa7 23.Nd5 Kb8**
 2.10/22

[23...Bxd5± 1.56/21 might work
 better. 24.exd5 Rdg8]

24.Qc3 Rc8 25.Ne7 Rce8



26.Rxd6? -0.19/24 **cx d6= 27.Rxd6 Ng4**

[27...Rxe7? 28.Qxe5 Rc8 29.Rxa6+
 (29.Rxe6+ Rec7+-) 29...Rec7
 30.Rxa7 Kxa7 31.Bd3+-]

28.Rb6 Black must now prevent Nc6+.

28...Ka8! 29.Bxa6! Decoy 29...Rxe7

30.Qxh8+ Qb8 Dancing on a razor
 blade. **31.Qxb8+ Kxb8 32.Be2 Nf6-+**
33.a6 -1.35/26

[33.f3 Nd7 34.Rb5 f6 35.Kf2]

[33.f3= 0.00/28 remains equal.]

33...Nxe4 34.Bf3 Bd5 -0.81/27

[34...Nd2 Strongly threatening ...
 Nxf3+. 35.Rxb7+ Rxb7 36.Bxb7
 Ka7]

[Δ 34...Rd7! -1.36/25 35.h4 Nd2

(35...Nd6 36.hxg5 hxg5 37.axb7+)]

35.h4 f5-+ 0.00/25

[35...gxh4 ...Re6 is the strong threat.
 36.Rxh6 bxa6 37.Rxa6 Nc3
 Hoping for ...Bxf3. 38.Bxd5 Nxd5
 39.Rh6 -1.63/21 (39.Kh2+ -0.85/25)
 39...Nxb4-+ 40.Rxh4 -2.05/20
 (Δ 40.Rh8+ -1.69/20 Kb7 41.Rxh4
 Nxc2 42.Ra4) 40...Nxc2-+ 41.Rf4
 Rd7 42.g4 Nd4 -0.89/22 (42...Kc8-+
 -2.15/22 has better winning chances.
 43.Rc4+ Rc7)]

[Better is 35...gxh4+ -0.97/25
 And now ...Re6 would win. 36.Rxh6
 bxa6 37.Rxa6 Bc4]

36.Rxh6= g4 37.Be2 -4.09/22

[37.Bxe4 is still possible Bxe4
 was the main move 38.Rh8+ Ka7
 39.axb7 Rxb7= 40.c3]

[37.Bxe4= 0.01/31 Bxe4 (37...Rxe4
 38.Rd6±) 38.c4]

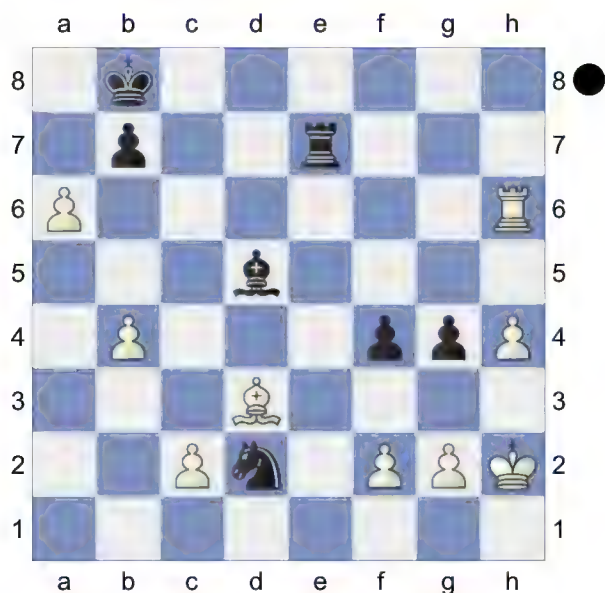


37...Nd2!-+ 38.Bd3 -9.29/25

[Δ 38.Bxg4 -4.03/21 fxg4 39.Rh8+
 Ka7 40.axb7 Rxb7 (40...Kxb7?
 41.Kh2-+) 41.Rh5 (41.Rd8? Rxb4
 42.h5 Rb1+ 43.Kh2 Nf1+ 44.Kg1
 Bc6-+) 41...Rxb4 42.Rg5 (42.Rxd5?

too greedy. *Rb1+ 43.Kh2 Nf1+ 44.Kg1 Ne3+ Discovered Attack (Check), Double Attack 45.Kh2 Nxd5-+]*

38...f4 Black is clearly winning. **39.Kh2**



Re1!?

[Not 39...bxa6 40.Rb6+ Kc7 41.Rf6=]

40.Rh8+ -7.85/21

[40.a7+ -4.28/21 Kxa7 41.b5 Nf1+ 42.Bxf1 Rxf1 43.Rd6]

40...Ka7-+ I believed my N would get to either e3 or c3 eventually and give me a good advantage. **41.axb7** The most natural move with the N heading to c3.

41...Kxb7 Never resign too early!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.69/ Black=0.18 (very precise)

[41...Kxb7 42.Rh7+ Kb6 43.Rh6+ Kc7 44.Rh7+ Kd6-+ 45.Rh6+ -12.76/21 (45.c4 -4.92/21 Nf3+ 46.gxf3 Bxf3 47.c5+ Kd5 48.Rd7+ Ke6 49.Rd6+ Ke5 50.Re6+ Decoy Kxe6 51.Bc4+ Kf6 52.Bf1 Rxf1 53.h5 Rh1#) 45...Ke7-+ 46.Rh7+ The move I was clearly expecting. Kf8 (-> ...Nf3+!) 47.Rh8+ Kg7= And black does not have any problem

here. *48.Rh7+ Kg8] [41...Bxb7 42.Rh7 0-1*

0-1

C68
 2599
 2521
 ZAZ Cup Zaporozhye (6) 24.09.2004
 [Kitty Kat]

C68: Ruy Lopez: Exchange Variation, sidelines

Krasenkow, Michal: 'Krasenkow, M: 'Inf 68/(292)" 1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Qd6 6.Na3 Be6 7.Qe2 f6 8.Rd1 c5 9.c3! 0-0-0 1.08/21

[9...g5± 0.61/22 deserves consideration.]

[9...Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Ne7 12.d4 cxd4 13.cxd4 exd4 14.Bf4 Qd7 15.Rac1 Nc6 16.Nc2 Rd8 17.Qb3 Qc8 18.Qc4 Bd6 19.Bxd6 Rxd6 20.Nb4 Qd7 21.Nxc6 Rxc6 22.Qb4 Godena, M (2550)-Krasenkow, M (2605) 68/(292) Reggio Emilia 1996]

10.d4± Ne7N 1.50/22

[10...Bf7 1.08/21]

[10...cxd4 11.cxd4 Bg4 12.Be3 exd4 13.Rxd4 Qe7 14.Rxd8+ Qxd8 15.Nc4 Ne7 16.Rd1 Qe8 17.h3 Bh5 18.Bf4 Nc6 19.Qe3 Be7 20.Bxc7 Kxc7 21.Qf4+ Ne5 22.g4 g5 23.Qg3 Kb8 24.Nfxe5 fxe5 25.Qxe5+ 1-0 (28) 6. ♔d4 e5 7. ♔d3 52284-Fluvia Poyatos, J (m/2) 126/152 2015]

11.Be3 cxd4 1.12/21

[11...exd4 1.51/24 12.cxd4 Qc6]

12.cxd4 exd4 13.Rxd4 Qc6 14.Rc1 Qe8 15.Rxd8+ Kxd8 2.07/22

[15...Qxd8± 1.02/21 16.Nd4 Bf7]

16.Qd2+ Kc8 17.Nd4 Bd7 18.Bf4
0.46/19

[18.Nc4+- 1.66/21 Hoping for Nd6+.
Nc6 19.Nxc6 Bxc6 20.Qd4]

18...Nc6± 19.Nxc6→ White attacks.

19...Bxc6 20.Qa5 Qe7 2.87/22

[20...Qd8!± 0.62/22]

21.Nc4 1.48/22

[White should try 21.Nc2+- 2.87/22
g5 (21...Bxe4? 22.Nd4+-) 22.Bg3
Bxe4 (22...Qxe4 23.Qxc7#) 23.Nd4]

21...g5

[21...Qxe4 22.Qxc7#]

[21...Bxe4? 22.Nd6+- (22.Nb6+
Kd8+-; 22.Nb6+ Kd8+-)]

22.Bg3 White has more active pieces.

22...h5

[22...Qxe4 23.Qxc7#]

[22...Bxe4? 23.Nd6+ (23.Nb6+
Kd8+-) 23...Kb8 24.Rxc7+- (24.Nxe4
Ka7+-; 24.Nxe4 Ka7+-)]

23.Qf5+ 1.19/18

[Better is 23.Ne3+- 1.68/23]

23...Kb8± ...h4! would now be deadly.

24.Ne3! Nd5 is the strong threat.

24...Qh7 2.68/23

[24...Qd8± 1.29/23 25.Rd1 (25.Nd5
Bd6+-) 25...Bd6 (25...Qe7 26.Nd5±)
26.Bxd6 cxd6]

25.Qxf6+- Bg7 26.Qxg5 Bxb2 2.53/19

[26...h4 1.77/21 27.Bf4 Bd4]

27.Rc2? 0.91/21

[27.Rxc6+- 2.53/19 has better
winning chances. bxc6 28.Qc5]

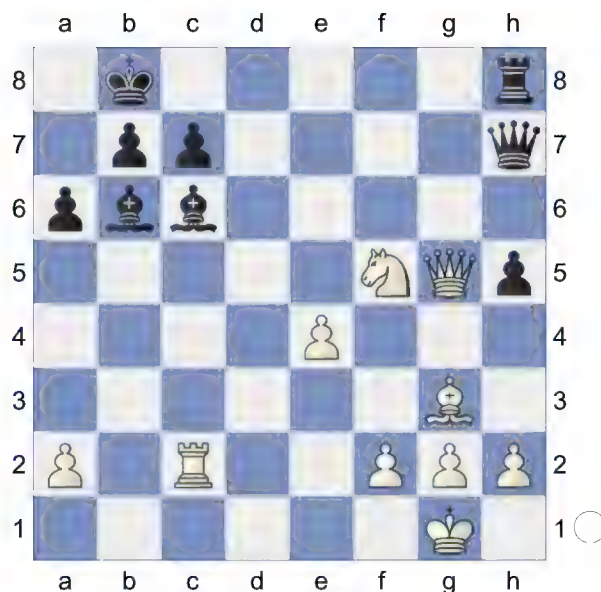
27...Bd4± 28.Nf5 0.21/20

[White should play 28.f3!± 0.79/21]

28...Bb6!=

(Diagram)

29.Rxc6 -0.75/20 bxc6± 30.Qf6
Inhibits Qf7. 30...Kb7 Strongly
threatening ...Re8. 31.e5 -2.32/21



[31.h4± -1.00/20 keeps fighting.]



31...Qd7? 0.21/24 32.Nd6+=

[32.Qxh8? Qd1#]

32...cxd6 33.Qxh8 dxe5 1.57/27

Endgame. KQB-KQB

[33...Qf5!± 0.46/21 34.h4 (34.exd6?
Qb1#; 34.Qg7+ Bc7±) 34...dxe5]

34.h4 0.39/21

[White has to play 34.Qxh5± 1.57/27
Bd4 35.h4 (35.Bxe5? Bxe5 36.h4
Qd5+-)]

34...Qf5± 35.Qg7+

[35.Bxe5? Qxf2+ 36.Kh2 Qxh4#]
35...Bc7 36.Qg5 Qb1+ 37.Kh2 Qxa2
38.Qxh5 Threatens to win with Qg6!
38...a5 39.Qh7

[39.Bxe5 Bxe5+ 40.Qxe5 Qxf2]
39...Qe2 40.f4 And now f5 would win.
40...a4! 41.fxe5 Kb6 42.Qb1+ Kc5
43.Qf5 Black must now prevent e6+.

[43.Qc1+ simplifies Kd5 44.Qf4
 Bxe5 45.Qxa4 Bxg3+ 46.Kxg3 c5
 47.Qd7+]

43...Kb4? 5.43/22

[43...Kb6!± 0.59/20]

44.Qd7 a3? 7.45/21

[44...Bb8 3.37/19 45.Qxc6 a3
 (45...Bxe5? 46.Qb6+ Ka3 47.Qc5+
 Kb3 48.Qxe5+-)]

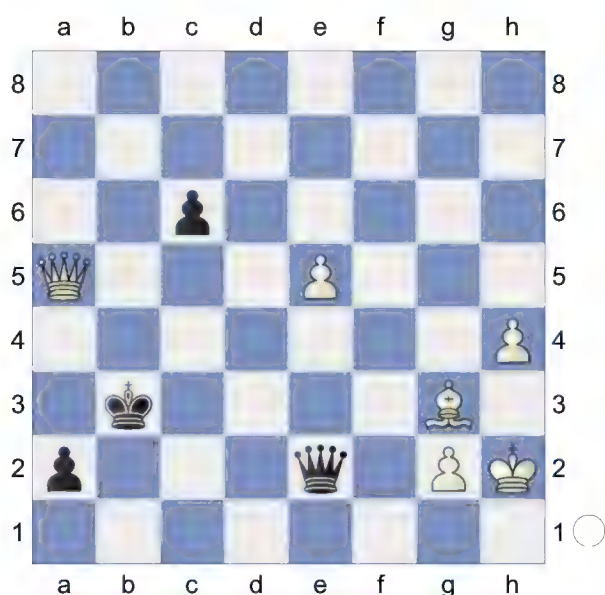
45.Qxc7+- a2 46.Qb6+

[46.Qxc6 a1Q (46...a1B? 47.Qb6+
 Qb5 48.Qxb5+ Kxb5 49.h5+-)
 47.Qb6+ Kc4 48.Qe6+ Kc3 49.Qc6+
 Kb3 50.Qb6+ Kc2+-]

46...Ka3 47.Qa5+

[47.Qxc6? a1Q (47...a1B? 48.Qf3+
 Qxf3 49.gxf3+-) 48.Qd6+ Kb3+-]

47...Kb3



48.e6! c5

[48...Qxe6 49.Be5]

49.Qb6+

[49.Qxc5? a1Q (49...a1B? 50.e7+-)
 50.Qd5+ (50.e7? Qa8+-) 50...Qc4
 51.Qb7+ Kc2+-]

49...Ka4 50.Qa7+ Kb3 51.e7

[51.Qxc5 a1Q (51...a1B?
 too greedy. 52.e7+-) 52.Qd5+
 (52.e7? Qa8+-) 52...Qc4 53.Qb7+
 Kc2+-]

51...c4 52.Qb8+ Kc2 53.Qe5 Qf1
54.e8Q White mates. **54...a1Q 55.Qg6+**
Kb3 56.Qb5+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.48/
 Black=0.51

1-0

B08
 □ **Eden,James** **2294**
 ■ **Sumets,Andrey** **2497**

Cap d'Agde Karpov Trophy qual (4)
 [Sumets,A, MH]

B08: Pirc Defence: Classical System

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3
g6 5.Be2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3

[7.d5 Nb8 (7...Ne5 8.Nxe5 dxe5
 9.Be3 8) White: 1.e4 vs. Other
 Open-1...Nc6 #2 Opening Compass
 for Black and White 2023) 8.h3 c6
 9.a4 cxd5 10.exd5 Nbd7 11.Be3 a6
 12.Nd4 Qc7 13.a5 b5 14.axb6 Nxb6
 15.Nc6 Bb7 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7
 17.Bxb6 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5
 19.Qxd5 Qxe2 20.Bd4 Bxd4
 21.Qxd4 Rfc8 ½-½ Wagner,R
 (2467)-195. (2395) 126/(116)
 Jerusalem 2015]

7...a6 8.a4 e5 9.dxe5N

[9.Be3 exd4 10.Nxd4 Re8 11.Nxc6
 bxc6 12.Bf3 Nd7 13.Qd2 Rb8
 14.Rab1 Qf6 15.Be2 Qe5 16.Rfd1
 Qa5 17.Bd4 Bxd4 18.Qxd4 Rb4

19.Qd2 Nc5 20.b3 Nxe4 21.Nxe4
Rex4 22.Bf3 Re5 23.Bxc6 Bf5
0-1 (47) 8. ♟b3 ♞c6 9. ♞e1 ♞e6 -Sowa,
M 21/258 Amsterdam 1976]

9...dxe5N Objectively White has better chances but the position remains complicated with mutual chances.

10.Be3 Qe7 11.Qc1! A strong move. White wants to get some space on the queenside. **11...Rd8**

[11...Be6!! 12.Ng5 Nd4 13.Nxe6 Nxe2+ 14.Nxe2 Nxg7 would now be deadly. Qxe6 15.Ng3 Rad8 16.Rd1=Rd7 17.Rxd7 Qxd7 18.Qd1]

12.Rd1 -0.15/21 Wards off Nd4
[12.Re1 0.27/19 is more appropriate.]

12...Be6?! 0.30/22 Now White has big advantage.

[♞12...Rxd1+! -0.15/21 13.Qxd1 Be6]

13.Ng5?! -0.11/21
[13.Re1 0.30/22 should be considered.]

13...Nd4 14.Nxe6 Qxe6 15.Bd3 Rd7?
A strange mistake. The queen is not well-placed on c1 and after the possible Qa7, Na5 I could create some threats. Also Black could have played 0-0-0.

16.Rd2 -0.18/23
[♞16.b4 0.18/21]

16...Rad8 17.Qf1!? James prefers the most aggressive way. **17...Nh5 0.59/19**
[17...Bf8= -0.28/22]

18.Rad1 0.05/23
[18.Nd5!± 0.59/19]

18...Nf4= 19.Bc4 Qe7 20.Bxf4 -0.46/20
Too aggressive. White doesn't want to spend time on the prophylaxis move Rb1
[20.Kh1± 0.36/22]

20...exf4 21.Nd5! Qxe4 0.56/27
[21...Qg5! ̸ -0.45/24 22.Kh1
(22.Rxd4 Bxd4 23.Rxd4 c6 ̸)

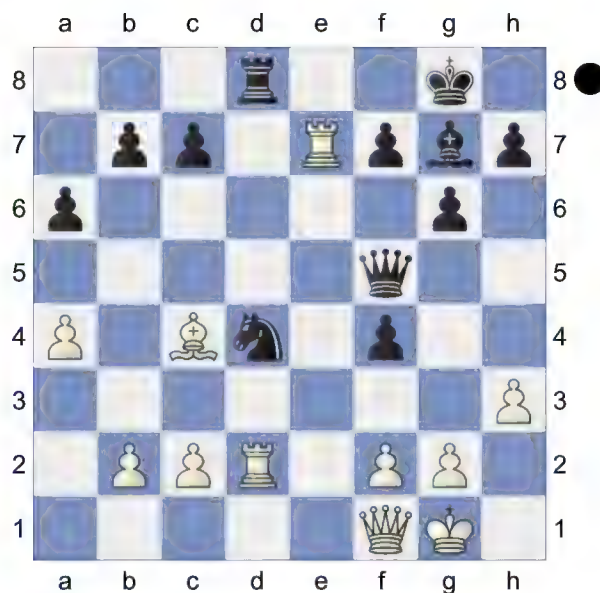
22...Kf8]

22.Re1 -0.32/18
[22.c3!± 0.56/27]

22...Qf5 23.Ne7+



Rxe7! 24.Rxe7



Nf3+! Discovered Attack 25.gxf3 Qg5+
[25...Rxd2 26.Rxf7 Qg5+ 27.Kh1=]

26.Kh2 -1.16/29
[26.Kh1!= -0.25/23 remains equal.
Qxe7 27.Qd1 Rxd2 28.Qxd2]

26...Qxe7 -0.26/27
[26...Rxd2 ̸ -1.16/29 27.Re8+ Bf8]
27.Qe2= Qf6 28.Rxd8+ Qxd8!

Endgame. KQB-KQB 29.b4 -0.71/23

[29.Qe4= -0.29/27]

29...Bd4 30.Kg2 Qg5+ 31.Kf1

It seems that Black is completely winning but after 31 Qxc8 Black needs to be very precise in order to make a draw.

31...Qf5 -0.25/22 Black is more active.

[31...Kg7? -0.97/27 32.Bxf7 (32.Qe4 Qf6?) 32...Bxf2 33.Qxf2 Kxf7]

32.Kg2?? -0.86/25 The decisive mistake.

[32.Qe7= -0.25/22 keeps the balance. Kg7 (32...Qxh3+ 33.Ke2±) 33.Kg2]

32...Qf6 33.Qe4 c6 -0.10/21

[33...Bb6? -0.86/25 Strongly threatening ... Q g 5 + . 34.Qd5 (34.Qxb7? is the wrong capture. Qd4-+) 34...Kg7]

34.Qe8+! Kg7 35.Qd7 b5 36.Bxf7

Deflection 36...Kh6 37.axb5 cxb5

38.Qe6+- -0.63/28

[Better is 38.Bg8= 0.00/31 Qg7 39.Qd8]

38...Qh4 -0.09/28

[Black should try 38...Qg5+! -0.63/28 39.Qg4 Bc3]

39.Qe2= Qg5+ 40.Kf1 Bc3 41.Qe4

Qf6 42.Bb3 -0.64/21

[42.Bd5= -0.02/24]

42...Qd6! 43.Qd5 -1.41/21

Black continues to play with concentration.

[43.Bg8 -0.72/26]

43...Bxb4?

[Don't take 43...Qxb4 44.Qd8?]

44.Qe4=

(Diagram)

Bc5! 45.h4? -5.50/21

[45.Qe2 -1.75/22 is more resistant.]

45...Qd2+ 46.Qe2 Qxe2+ 47.Kxe2

KB-KB 47...Be7 48.c4 Bxh4 49.c5



-6.67/22

[49.cxb5 -4.72/20 axb5 50.Kd2]

49...Be7 50.c6 Threatens to win with c7.

50...Bd6 51.Kd3 Kg5 52.Ke4 Kf6

53.Kd5 Bc7 ...h5 is the strong threat.

54.Kc5 h5 55.Bc2 h4 56.Bd3= h3!

(-> ...h2) 57.Bf1 h2 58.Bg2 Ke5

59.Bh1 Bb6+! 60.Kb6 b4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/

Black=0.21 (precise) Black cannot stop

the pawn but the position is still drawish

0-1

B00

□ Gagare, Shardul

2446

■ Ghosh, Diptayan

2487

IND-chT League (3.1)

12.06.2014

[Sagar Shah, MH]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

The game was played at a time control of 25 minutes plus ten second increment per move.

1.e4 Nc6 2.Bb5 d5N

[2...Nf6 3.d3 Nd4 (3...g6 4.c3 Bg7

5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 a6 8.Bxc6

bxc6 9.Qe1 Rb8 10.Na3 d5 11.e5 Nd7 12.Nd4 Rb6 13.b4 c5 14.Nb3 cxb4 15.cxb4 f6 16.e6 Nb8 17.f5 gxf5 18.Nc5 (23) Chapter-Games Chapter 1 Game 2) 4.Ba4 b5 5.c3 bxa4 6.cxd4 Ba6 7.Nc3 a3 8.b3 c5 9.dxc5 Qa5 10.Nge2 e6 11.Bd2 Bxc5 12.Na4 Bb4 13.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 14.Qd2 Qb5 15.Rd1 0-0 16.Nec3 Qh5 17.0-0 1-0 (34) 7.♘f3 c5 8.♙b5 ♘c6 (2547)-Kuljasevic,D (2504) DDR-corr II/265 1984 (9)]

3.Nc3

[3.Bxc6+ bxc6 4.e5= As compared to the Tarrasch, Black stands much better because he has smooth and easy development. (4.exd5 cxd5) 4...c5!? as tried by GM Steingrimsdsson looks very interesting as the resulting endgame is perfectly acceptable for Black.]
[3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Bxc6+ (4.Bf1; 4.Nc3= Black has no problems. Qxg2 5.Qf3± Bh3 is another option at White's disposal.) 4...Qxc6]

3...dxe4 4.Qe2 Though the talented White player has been playing the English Opening for almost his entire career, I am sure that he was unprepared for 3...h6. White tries to stop the ideas related with ♙b4. But the point to note here is that h6 will definitely be more useful for Black than White's a3. Due to a3, the b3-square is weakened as we shall see in the further course of the game, while with ...h6, the very important resource of pinning the ♘ later with ♙g5 is now impossible.

[4.Nxe4 Qd5? 5.Qe2!± Bf5 6.Ng3 Bxc2]
[4.Bxc6+ bxc6 5.Nxe4 Nf6 6.Nxf6+ exf6]

4...Bd7! This is the right reaction by

Black to transpose into the Keres Variation of the English with the addition of the h6 and a3 moves.

5.Nxe4 This move now becomes possible as the c6-square is no longer available for the black ♘. The ♔ on d4 will feel much more secure. **5...Nd4 6.Bxd7+ Qxd7 7.Qd3 e5 ...f5** would now be deadly. **8.c3** Black has an edge. **8...Ne6 9.Qxd7+ Kxd7 10.Nf3 Bd6 11.d3 -0.25/17**

[11.0-0 0.18/22 was preferable.]

11...f5↑ Black is more active. **12.Nxd6** [12.Neg5?!]

12...cxd6 13.Be3 f4 One look at the position shows that Black is a lot more than just equal here. His bishops are coming out on ideal squares and the knights are ready to take advantage of the softened queenside.

14.Bd2 Stopping ♘c5 for the time being. **14...g5 -0.37/22**

[14...Re8♣ -0.73/19]

15.0-0-0 -0.91/21

[15.d4!♣ -0.37/22]

15...Nf6 Forcing White to push his pawn to e5 but there is not much that Black gets in return for that. It's true that knight gets the d5-square but with the White knight coming to d4, he should be slightly better.

16.c4 g4 17.Nh4 Nd4 18.Rhe1

(Diagram)

g3 0.38/28 19.hxg3?! 0.00/26

[19.fxg3± 0.38/28 fxg3 20.hxg3]

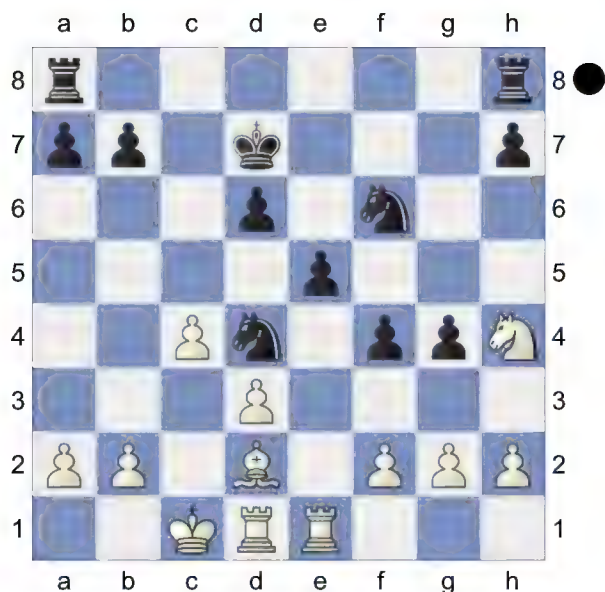
19...Ng4! activates the rook on a8.

20.Rf1

[20.gxf4 Nxf2 21.Bc3 Nxd1 22.Kxd1 Rae8♣]

20...fxg3 21.fxg3 Raf8 Inhibits Rf7+.

22.Kb1?! This move loses a pawn.



22...Nf2 A dynamic duo of knights.
23.Bh6 Nxd1 24.Bxf8 Threatens to win with Bh6!

[24.Rxf8 Rxf8 25.Bxf8 Ne6±]

24...Ne3 25.Rf6 Ng4 **26.Bg7 -1.66/29**
 [26.Rxd6+ Kc7 27.Bg7 Rg8? **1.98/15** (27...Kxd6± **0.42/20** 28.Bxh8 Nf2) 28.Bxe5!]

[26.Rxd6+= **0.17/24** and White stays safe. Kc7 27.Bg7 Kxd6 28.Bxh8]

26...Nxf6 -0.27/17

[26...Re8!+ **-1.66/29** 27.Rf7+ Re7 28.Rxe7+ Kxe7]

27.Bxh8+ Endgame. KBN-KNN
27...Ng4 Threatening ...Nf2. **28.Nf3 Nf5**
29.Kc1 h6 30.d4 Conclusion: The move a3 weakens the b3-square and in general the move 3...h6 is much more useful than 4.a3. Hence, Black gets a good version of the Keres English.

30...e4

[30...Nxc3?! 31.dxe5 Ne3 32.b3±]

31.Ne1 -0.77/24

[31.Nh4!= **-0.15/23** Nfe3 (31...Nxc3 32.d5+) 32.b3]

31...Nxc3 -0.03/22

[31...d5!+ **-0.77/24** 32.c5 Nxc3]

32.d5= h5 33.Kd2 h4 Hoping for ...

Nf1+. 34.Bd4 a6 35.Nc2 **Nh5 0.43/28**
 [35...Nf5= **0.07/20**]

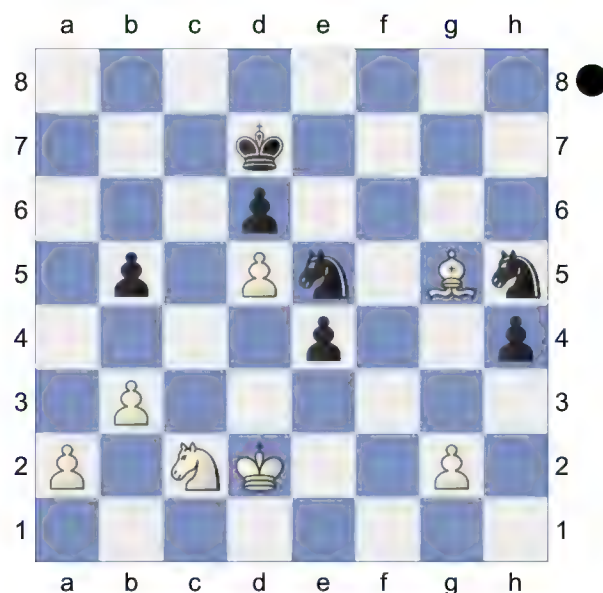
36.Be3 0.04/22

[36.Ne3!± **0.43/28**
 is more appropriate. Nh6 37.Nd1]

36...Ne5= 37.b3 b5 38.cxb5+ axb5

39.Bg5 -3.71/27

[39.Kc3= **0.06/21** and White has nothing to worry.]



39...h3! -0.20/19 was much better.
40.gxh3= Nf3+± 41.Ke3 Black must now prevent h4. **41...Nxc3!**
 A much more accurate try was **42.Nd4! -1.83/23**

[42.h4]

[42.h4= **-0.17/25** Nf3 43.Kxe4 Nxh4 44.Na3]

42...Nf6+

[Much less strong is 42...Nxc3 43.Nxb5 Ng5 44.Nc3=]

43.h4? -4.45/23

[43.Kf4 **-2.02/20** was forced. Nxh3+ 44.Kf5 Nxd5 45.Kxe4 Nc3+ 46.Kd3 Nxa2 47.Nxb5]

43...Nxd5+ 44.Ke2 -6.54/21

[44.Kf2 **-4.48/23** Ne6 (44...Nh3+? 45.Kg3+) 45.Nxb5]

44...Nf4+ 45.Kf1 -7.42/21

[$\triangle$ 45.Kf2 -4.63/21 Nge6 46.Nxb5]

45...Nf3 46.Nxf3 $\bar{e}$ exf3 could have been the easier way to equalise. 47.a4 bxa4!? 48.bxa4+ KN-KPP 48...Ke6 -4.14/27

[48...Nh3]

[$\triangle$ 48...Nh3 -9.62/29 Strongly threatening ...d5. 49.h5 Kc6]

49.Kf2 Kf5? 0.00/42 The drawback of the move 4.a3.

[49...Ng6+ -3.28/35 50.h5 Ne5]

50.Kxf3= Nd5 51.a5 Nc7 52.h5 Kg5 53.Ke4 I do not see an easy way for

White to get an edge over here too. 53...Kxh5 was another option but it looks scary to allow c5 and d4 with a tempo.

54.a6? -#36/40 Kg6 (-> ...Kg5!)

[Worse is 54...Nxa6 55.Kd5=]

55.a7 Kf7

Weighted Error Value: White=0.77/ Black=0.51. An unexpected result.

1/2-1/2

B07

☐ Motylev,Alexander

2674

☒ Korotkjevich,Stanislav

2349

Mainz Ordix op 15th rapid (3) 02.08.2008

[Kitty Kat]

B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.c3 g6 5.Bd3

[5.Bb5 a6 6.Ba4 b5 7.Bc2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nbd2 e5 10.Re1 Bb7 11.Nf1 Re8 12.Ng3 h6 13.h4 Bc8 14.Nh2 Neikirkh,O (2594)-Pililian (2438) 110/38 Russia 2010]

5...Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Bg5N

[7.h3 e5 8.Re1 (8.Na3 d5 9.Bg5 dxe4 10.Bxe4 exd4 11.Bxc6 dxc3

12.Qa4 bxc6 13.Qxc6 cxb2 14.Rad1 Bd7 15.Qc2 Qc8 16.Qxb2 Ne4 17.Qb4 Re8 18.Kh2 Bf8 19.Qa5 Bd6+ 20.Kg1 Bxh3 21.gxh3 Qxh3 22.Rd3 Ng3 0-1 (24) 5. $\triangle$ c3 $\triangle$ f6 6.

$\triangle$ e2 $\triangle$ g7 7-Sowa,M 65/581 United

States 1995) 8...a6 9.Na3 Re8

10.Nc2 h6 11.a4 Bd7 12.Bd2 Qc8

13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Ne3 Be6 15.Qc2

Qd7 16.b4 Rad8 17.Bf1 Nh5 18.b5

Nb8 19.c4 c6 20.Rad1 Qc7 21.c5

axb5 (58) Chapter-Games Chapter 7

Game 8]

7...e5 8.Nbd2 -0.04/23

[8.h3 $\pm$ 0.48/23]

8...h6= 9.Bh4 g5 The position is equal. The move order can make a difference.

[9...exd4 0.37/23 9...g5 -0.06

10.Nxd4! (10.cxd4 -0.45/21

10.Nxd4 0.33 g5)

A) 10...Ne5 11.Be2 Re8 1.01/20

(11...g5 $\pm$ 0.62/22 12.Bg3 Ng6)

12.f4 $\pm$ Ned7 13.Qc2 $\pm$;

B) 10...Nxd4 11.cxd4 c6 12.f4 $\pm$

Berkovich,M (2396)-Richardson,K

(2192) La Massana 2008 (1-0, 24)]

10.Bg3 g4

[10...exd4 0.54/21 10...g4 0.00

11.Nxd4 $\pm$]

11.Ne1 -0.60/23

[11.Nh4?! -0.58/22 11.dxe5 0.00

does not offer adequate compensation

for the pawn, either: exd4 12.cxd4

Nxd4 13.Nb3 Nc6 14.Nf5 Bxf5

15.exf5 Ne5 16.Be2 -1.26/22

($\triangle$ 16.Bxe5 -0.85/23 dxe5 17.Qe2)

16...Re8 $\bar{e}$ Ivanov,I (2430)-Pfleger,H

(2505)/Lone Pine 1981/MCL (0-1,

23)]

[The as yet untested 11.dxe5!

looks best: dxe5 (11...gxf3 1.10/21

11...dxe5 -0.10 This would not work

out well for White with the bishop on

e2. 12.exf6 fxc2 13.Kxc2 Qxf6 14.f4↑) 12.Ne1! White has saved both attacked pieces and can hope to take advantage of the weakened black kingside.]

[11.dxe5= 0.00/23 dxe5 12.Ne1]

11...exd4 12.cxd4 Nxd4 13.Bh4 Ne6

14.f4 gxf3 15.Nexf3 c6 -0.19/22

[15...Nf4 16.Qc2 Ng6] might be stronger.

16.Kh1 Nf4! 17.Qc2 Ng6 And now ... Nxe4 would win. Black does not seem to be in any danger.

18.e5 -1.25/23 Nxe4

[18...Nxe5? 19.Nxe5 dxe5 20.Ne4+-]

19.exf6 Qxf6 20.Ne4 Qd8 -0.12/21

[20...Qxb2 21.Nxe4 Qxc2 (21...Qxa1? 22.Rxa1 d5 23.Nc3+-) 22.Bxc2 Bxa1 23.Rxa1 Rd8]

21.Nxe4= Qxe4 22.Qd2 -1.54/25

[22.Nxd6= -0.06/22 was the only way to keep the balance. Be6 23.Nf5 Bxf5 24.Rxf5]

22...d5 23.Rf4 Qe7 24.Ng3 Qg5 Repels Nh5 25.Nf5 Bxf5 26.Bxf5 Kh8 27.Qf2 Rae8 And now he is simply two pawns up.

28.Rf1 d4 29.Bb1 -1.17/23

[29.Bd3 -0.81/21]

29...Qe5 -0.30/25

[29...Re3! aiming for ... Rfe8. 30.Rxf7 Rxf7 31.Qxf7 d3]

30.Rxd4= Deflection 30...Qe2

[30...Qxd4? 31.Qf5+-]

31.Qf5 -1.41/23 Qxf1

[31...Bxd4 32.Qh7#]

32.Qxf1 Bxd4 33.g4 -2.82/19

[33.g3 Kg8 (33...Bxb2? 34.Qf5+-) 34.Qd3 Re1+ 35.Kg2]

33...Rg8 -1.59/22

[33...Bxb2 34.Qf5 Re1+ 35.Kg2 Rxb1 (35...Re2+? 36.Kf1+-)

36.Qxb1±]

[33...Kg7+- -2.82/19 34.Kg2 Bf6 (34...Bxb2? 35.Qf5+-)]

34.h3 -1.99/21

[34.Qf5 might work better. Rg7 (34...Bxb2 35.Qh7#) 35.h3]

34...Rg7? -0.10/24

[34...Bxb2 35.Qd3 Rg7 36.Qd2=]

[34...Kg7!+- -1.99/21 ...Rh8! is the strong threat. 35.Qd3 Re1+ (35...Bxb2 36.Qh7+ Deflection Kf8 37.Qxh6+ Bg7 38.Qd6+ Re7 39.Qd8+ Re8 40.Qd6+ Re7 41.Qd8+ Re8 42.Qd6+=) 36.Kg2 Rd8 (36...Bxb2 37.Qh7+ Kf8 38.Qxh6+ Ke8 39.Bf5±) 37.Qh7+ Kf8 38.Qxh6+ Bg7]

35.b4 -0.51/24

[35.Bf5= -0.10/24]

35...h5 36.Qd3 -0.88/26

[36.Bf5 -0.31/24]

36...Bb6 -0.31/26

[36...Re1+ -0.88/26 37.Kg2 Bb6 (37...hxc4 38.Qxd4 gxc3+ 39.Kf3=)]

37.Qd1 -1.08/23

[37.Qd2 -0.31/26]

37...hxc4 38.hxc4 Bc7 0.00/27

[38...Rgg8! 39.Qd2 Kg7 (39...Rxc4 40.Qh6+ Kg8 41.Bh7+ Kh8 42.Bg6+ Discovered Attack (Check) Kg8 43.Qh7+ Kf8 44.Qxf7#) 40.Qg5+ Kf8 41.Qh6+ Ke7]

39.Bf5= Rd8 0.41/24 Prevents Qd7.

[39...f6= 0.00/27]

40.Qa1 -0.33/22

[40.Qe1± 0.41/24]

40...Kg8 41.Kg2 Rd5 42.Kf3 Be5

43.Qe1 Kf8 44.Qh4 -1.76/21

Prevents Bf6.

[44.b5! -0.33/22]

44...Rd4? 0.33/19

[44...Rg8!+- -1.76/21 Threatens to

win with ...Rh8. 45.Qh6+ Ke8]

45.a3 -1.12/25

[45.Qh8+± 0.33/19 keeps the upper hand. Ke7 46.Qc8]

45...b6 0.26/27

[Black should play 45...Rg8!± -1.12/25
White must now prevent ...Rh8.
46.Qh6+ Ke7]

**46.Qh6 Rd6 47.Qh8+ Ke7 48.Qa8 a5
1.00/27 49.bxa5± bxa5 50.Qxa5 Kf6
1.27/26**

[Black should try 50...f6 0.83/21]

51.Qe1 0.61/21 Some like it hot

[51.Qa8!± 1.27/26]

51...Rd4 4.99/22

[But not 51...Rg5? 52.Qh4+-]

[51...Rg8!± 0.61/21]

52.Qh4+- Rg5 53.Qh8+ Rg7

54.Qh4+ Rg5 55.Qh6+ Rg6 56.Bxg6

fxg6 Endgame. KQ-KRB 57.Qh8+ Ke6

58.Qe8+ Kd5 59.Qxg6 Rf4+ 60.Ke3

Ra4 61.Qg8+ Kc5 62.Qg5 Kd5

63.Qg8+ Kc5 64.Qg5 Kd5 65.Qe7

Bd6 66.Qf7+ Kc5 67.g5 Rxa3+

68.Ke2 Hoping for g6. 68...Rg3 8.05/19

[68...Ra8 4.96/22 69.g6 Be5
70.Qe7+ Kd5]

**69.g6 Be5 70.Kf2 Kd6 71.Qf8+?
0.50/30**

[71.Qe8+- 4.57/25 c5 72.Qg8]

71...Kd7? 5.01/27

[71...Kd5± 0.50/30]

72.Qf5+ Kd6

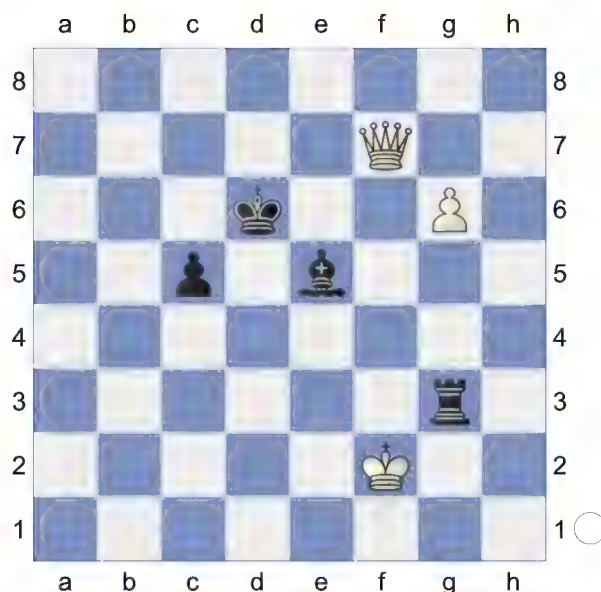
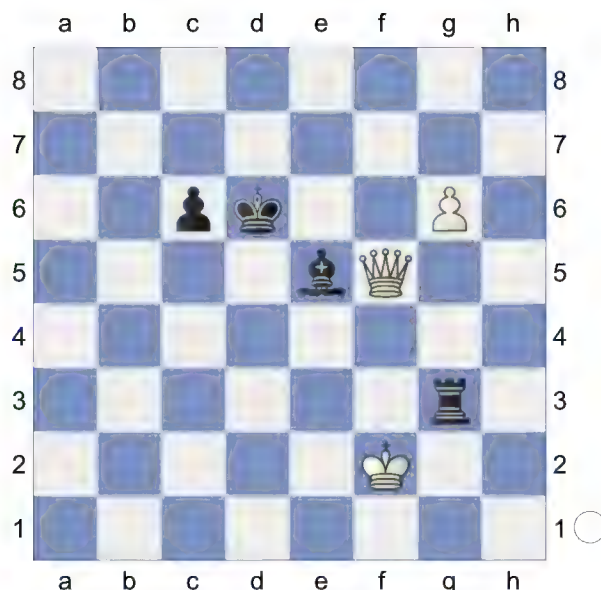
(Diagram)

73.Qf7! Strongly threatening Qe8.

73...c5? 4.36/27

[73...Rg5 2.53/22 74.Qf8+ Kd7
75.Qf7+ Kd6]

(Diagram)



74.Qf8+? 0.01/35

[74.Qg8!+- 4.36/27 Ra3 75.g7 Bxg7
76.Qxg7]

74...Kd5 75.Qd8+ Ke4 76.Qa8+ Kf5

77.Qc8+ Kxg6? 9.82/30

[77...Kf4= 0.10/26]

78.Qe6+

[Less strong is 78.Qxc5 Rg5 79.Qc8
Rf5+ 80.Ke2 Bd6±]

78...Kh5 79.Qxe5+ KQ-KR 79...Rg5

80.Qe8+ Kg4 81.Qe4+ Kh5 82.Kf3

Kh6 83.Qe6+ Rg6 84.Qe5 Intending

Kf4! and mate. 84...Rg5 85.Qh8+

58.01/5

[♖85.Qf6+ #56/27 Rg6 86.Qh8+ Kg5 87.Qe5+ Kh6 88.Kf4 (88.Qxc5 Re6+-) 88...Kh7 89.Qxc5 Kh6 90.Qf8+ Kh7 91.Qe8]

85...Kg6 86.Kf4 White threatens Qg8+ and mate. **86...Rf5+ 87.Ke4**

Threatening mate with Qg8+. **87...Rg5**

88.Qg8+ Kf6 89.Qf8+ Ke6 90.Qe8+

19.51/20

[♖90.Qh6+ #8/21 Kd7 91.Qxg5 c4 92.Qc5 Ke6 93.Qc6+ (93.Qxc4+ Kf6 94.Qc6+ Kg5 95.Qe6 Kh4 96.Kf4 Kh5 97.Qd6 Kh4 98.Qh6#) 93...Ke7 94.Kf5 (94.Qxc4 Kf6 95.Qc6+ Kg5 96.Qd6 Kh4 97.Kf4 Kh5 98.Kf5 Kh4 99.Qh2#) 94...Kf8 95.Kf6 (95.Qxc4 Ke8 96.Ke6 Kd8 97.Kd6 Ke8 98.Qg8#) 95...Kg8 96.Qg2+ Kh8 97.Qg7#]

90...Kf6 91.Qc6+ 10.44/20

[♖91.Qf8+ #43/21 Kg6 92.Kf4 Rh5 93.Qe8+ Kh6 94.Kg4 Rg5+ 95.Kh4 Rg2 96.Qh8+ Kg6 97.Qg8+ Skewer Kf6 98.Qxg2]

91...Kg7 92.Kf4 White mates. **92...Rg6**

93.Qc7+ Kh8 94.Kf5 Rg7 95.Qd8+

Kh7 96.Qh4+ Kg8 97.Qc4+ Kh7

98.Qe4 c4 99.Kf6+ Kg8 100.Qe8+

Kh7 101.Qe4+ Kh8 102.Qh4+ Kg8

103.Qxc4+ Kh8 104.Qh4+ Kg8

105.Qh5 Rd7 What a bad dream for Black.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.46

1-0

B00

□ **Nimzowitsch Defence**

■ **3.e5 f6 4.Bf4**

[GM Nigel Davies]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5

[3.Nc3 e6 4.e5 f6]

3...f6 4.Bf4N An understandable reaction if White wants to defend e5, but without committing himself to f2-f4 or having his knight pinned after 4.Nf3 Bg4. However, the bishop is misplaced here.

[4.f4 Nh6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 Nf5 7.c3 e6 8.0-0 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 fxe5 10.fxe5 Be7 11.Bg4 0-0 Nimzowitsch Defence-3.e5 f6 4.f4 2024]

[4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 Qd7 6.Nbd2 0-0-0 7.Nb3 e6 8.Be3 h6 9.Nh4 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 Qf7 11.0-0 g5 12.Nf3 f5 13.Ne1 Nge7 14.Nc5 Nb8 15.Qb5 b6 16.Nb3 f4 17.Bd2 Ng6 18.a4 h5 0-1 (43) 7.h4 ♔e7 8.♖g1 ♜h7 (1918)-Baron Cabrera,J (1965) XVIII Open Cappelle la Grande 2002 (6)]

4...fxe5 (Nigel Davies) More or less forcing White to recapture on e5 with the pawn.

[After 4...Bf5 Nigel Davies 5.Nf3 , he would be ready to recapture with the knight.]

5.dxe5 Bf5 The position is equal. **6.Bd3**

[6.Nf3 e6 7.Bb5 Bc5 was Lindberg, B (2515)-Laveryd,P (2459) SWE-chT 0304 Sweden 2003 .]

6...Bxd3

[6...Qd7 also seems playable, for example 7.Nf3 Nb4 8.0-0 And now e6! would win. Nxd3 9.cxd3 Threatening e6! e6 was nice for Black

in Seifert,C (2176)-Lutz,K (2282)
Oberliga Ost-B 1011 Germany 2010.]

7.Qxd3 e6 8.Nf3 Nge7

[8...Bc5! followed by ... Nge7 looks more economical here.]

9.Nbd2 Ng6 10.Bg3 Bc5 and Black stood well in Kerkhof,M-Poetsch,H (2462) Vlissingen HZ op 16th 2012. A rather calm draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

B00

☐ **Nimzowitsch Defence**

☒ **3.e5 f6 4.f4**

[GM Nigel Davies]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 f6 4.f4 Nh6
Flexible, keeping the option of bringing out his queen's bishop to f5 or g4.
5.Nf3N

[5.c3 Bg4 6.Qb3 (6.Be2 Bxe2 7.Qxe2 e6 8.Nh3 Qd7 9.Nd2 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 f5 12.Nf2 Nimzowitch'S Defense-2...d5) 6...Rb8 7.Bd3 e6 8.Be3 Bf5 9.Bxf5 Nxf5 10.Bf2 fxe5 11.fxe5 Qg5 12.Ne2 Qxg2 13.Rg1 Qxh2 14.Nd2 Be7 15.Nf1 Qh6 16.Nfg3 Nxc3 17.Rxc3 0-0 18.Be3 Qh1+ 19.Rg1 Qe4 0-1 (20) Mohd Tarmizi,N (2097)-10. cd4 ♕c6 11. ♔d3 f5 6505 (2074) 85/414 Belfort 2002 (1)]

5...Bg4

[5...Bf5 is another valid choice here, but to me it makes sense to find good squares for ALL of Black's pieces, and the h6 knight may want to come to f5.]

6.Be2 Nf5

[6...e6

A) 7.Be3 -0.14/19 7.0-0 0.52 Be7 0.42/20 (7...g5= -0.14/19) 8.0-0 0-0 9.c3 Kh8 0.74/18 was Norberg, J (2176)-Johansson,R Rilton Cup 33rd Stockholm 2003. (9...fxe5= 0.23/20 10.fxe5 Nf5);

B) 7.c3 Be7 8.0-0 f5 1.35/19 (8...0-0 is more flexible.; Black should try 8...0-0± 0.48/18) 9.b4± Qd7 10.Nbd2 Nf7 left Black without much space in Esenov,A (2319)-Kristjansson,S (2474) WMSG Rapid Team 1st Beijing 2008.]

7.c3 e6 8.0-0 Bxf3 0.88/19

[8...Be7 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 0.22/21 (10.Rxf3± 0.61/21 0-0 11.Bd3) 10...fxe5= 11.fxe5 0-0 12.Bg4 Bg5 was about equal in Kazarian,A (2125)-Jarovsky,A (2305) Speed Chess GP4 Chess.com INT blitz 2021.]

[8...h5± 0.39/18]

9.Bxf3± White is better. 9...fxe5 10.fxe5 Be7 11.Bg4 0-0 was OK for Black in. Voroshilov,D (1959)-Mikhaletz,L (2304) Kiev Blitz Marathon 2023.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)

B00

☐ **Nimzowitsch Defence**

☒ **3.e5 f6 4.Others**

[GM Nigel Davies]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 f6 4.Bd3
Here's a roundup of the alternatives:

[4.Bb5 should be met by Bd7

A) 5.Nc3 e6 (5...fxe5 6.dxe5 d4

7.Nce2 a6 8.Ba4 Nxe5 9.Qxd4 Bxa4 10.Qxa4+ Qd7 11.Qxd7+ Nxd7 would be a better endgame for White because of Black's three pawn islands.) 6.Nf3 was already covered in the section on 3.Nc3 e6 4.e5.;

B) 5.Nf3 Nxe5 6.dxe5 Bxb5 7.Nc3 Qd7 8.Qxd5 Qxd5 9.Nxd5 0-0-0 10.Nf4 Bd7 11.e6 Bc6 12.h4 Bxf3 13.gxf3 g6;

C) 5.f4 Nxe5;

D) 5.Ne2!? e6! (5...Nxe5 is then a big mistake because of 6.Bxd7+ Nxd7 7.Nf4 threatening both Ne6 and Qh5+.) 6.0-0

D1) 6...a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Nf4 Qd7 9.Qg4 (9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Nxe6 Qxe6 11.Re1 Ne4) 9...f5 10.Qg3 0-0-0 also seems fine, though the engine may prefer White until Black successfully organizes ...g7-g5.;

D2) 6...Nxe5 7.Bxd7+ Nxd7 8.Nf4;

D3) 6...Qe7 7.Re1 0-0-0 8.Nbc3 Qf7 is an arrangement of Black's pieces that we have seen before.]

[b) 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Bb5 fxe5 6.dxe5 e6 is very comfortable for Black.]

[c) 4.c4 Nigel Davies dxc4 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.exf6 exf6 7.d5 Qe7+! 8.Be2 (8.Be3 Ne5) 8...Bxf3 9.gxf3 0-0-0 would give Black has a clear plus.]

[4.f4 Nh6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 Nf5 7.c3 e6 8.0-0 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 fxe5 10.fxe5 Be7 11.Bg4 0-0 Nimzowitsch Defence-3.e5 f6 4.f4 2024]

4...Nxd4N

[4...g6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.exf6 Nxf6 7.c3 Bg7 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 0-0 10.Qe2

e5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.0-0 Nh5 13.Be3 Qh4 14.Nd2 Rad8 15.Kh2 Nf4 16.Bxf4 Qxf4+ 17.g3 Qxd2 18.Qxd2 Nf3+ 19.Kg2 0-1 (22) Ondrejka,P-5. ♖g5 ♜bd7 6.e3 La 76/ 530 Havana 1999]

5.Qh5+ g6 6.Bxg6+ hxg6 7.Qxh8

In this position the computer likes lots of moves for Black, but the problem is in finding one that is easy to remember!

7...Nxc2+ Probably the best, though the idea is to displace White's king and develop fast, rather than win the rook on a1.

[After 7...Qd7? 0.01/19 7...Nxc2+ -2. 14 there is 8.Na3 Qg4 9.Be3 -0.66/19 (9.exf6= -0.23/19 Qxg2 10.fxe7 Nxe7 11.Bh6 Qe4+ 12.Kd2) 9...Qxg2 0.01/21 (9...Be6≠ -0.66/19 10.Kf1 Nf5) 10.0-0-0!= Be6 aiming for ...0-0-0. 11.exf6! exf6 12.Bxd4 Qxh1]

[A more practical approach is 7...Kf7 , for example 8.Na3 Bg7 9.Qh4 fxe5 10.Be3 Nh6 11.0-0-0 (11.Bxh6 -0.89/20 11.Bxd4 -0.43 Nf5) 11...c6 0.01/20 (11...Ndf5!≠ -0.61/18 12.Qb4 c6) 12.Nh3 -0.69/21 (12.Bxd4!= 0.01/20 Nf5 Deflection, Double Attack 13.Qh7 Nxd4 14.Nh3) 12...Kg8 when Black's king finds safety and he has good compensation for the exchange.]

8.Kd1 Black is clearly better. **8...Qd7!**

[8...Nxa1 9.Qxg8 Qd7 (9...fxe5? 10.Qxg6+ Kd7 11.Nf3+-; 9...Bf5? 10.e6+-) 10.Qxg6+ Kd8 11.Qf7 Qa4+ 12.b3 Qxa2 13.Qxf8+=]

9.Qxg8

[9.Kxc2

(Diagram)



Hoping for Kd1. Qg4!]



9...Qg4+ 10.Kxc2? -3.29/22

[10.Ne2 Be6 11.Qh7 (11.f3 Qf5 12.Qxe6 Qxe6 13.Kxc2 Qxe5 gives Black a queen and two pawns for the three minor pieces, which also don't have good squares.) 11...Nxa1 12.exf6 -2.59/20 (12.f3 -1.97/20 Qxg2 13.Rg1 Qxf3 14.Nd2) 12...exf6+ 13.Qxc7 Qa4+ 14.b3? -4.67/22 (14.Ke1 -2.46/20 Rc8 15.Qf4 Nc2+ 16.Kf1 Ne3+ 17.fxe3

Qd1+ Skewer, Double Attack 18.Kf2 Qxh1 19.Qxf6) 14...Qxa2+ 15.Nd2 Rc8 16.Qxb7 Bh6]

[10.Ne2 -1.68/21 Be6 11.f3]

10...Bf5+-+ 11.Kd2

[11.Kc3? -8.75/18 11.Kd2 -2.96 Qc4+ 12.Kd2 Ne2 is the strong threat. Qc2+ 13.Ke1 Qxc1+ 14.Ke2 Qxb2+ 15.Nd2 Qxe5+ and then finally take the rook on a1.]

11...0-0-0 Threatening ...Bh6+.

[11...Qxg2 12.Ne2 0-0-0 (12...Qxh1? 13.Ng3+) 13.Qh8+ (13.Rg1? Qxf2 14.Kd1 d4+)]

12.Qh7 Wards off Bh6+ 12...Qg5+

13.Kd1 Qxg2 14.Nd2? -5.06/21

[14.Qh4 -2.70/19 is a better defense.]

14...Qxh1 Black is clearly winning.

15.Ndf3 fxe5 White is weak on the light squares 16.Bh6 Bxh6 17.Qxh6 e4 attacks the knight that defends its colleague on g1. Black is winning.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/ Black=0.05 (flawless)

0-1

B00

□ Nimzowitsch Defence

■ 3.e5 f6 4.Nf3

[GM Nigel Davies]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 f6 4.Nf3

[4.Bd3 Nxd4 5.Qh5+ g6 6.Bxg6+ hxg6 7.Qxh8 Nxc2+ 8.Kd1 Qd7 9.Qxg8 Qg4+ 10.Kxc2 Bf5+ 11.Kd2 0-0-0 12.Qh7 Qg5+ 13.Kd1 Qxg2 14.Nd2 Qxh1 15.Ndf3 fxe5 16.Bh6 Bxh6 17.Qxh6 e4 Nimzowitsch Defence-3.e5 f6 4.Others 2024]

4...Bg4 5.Bb5N

[5.Be2 e6 (5...Qd7 6.Nbd2 0-0-0 7.Nb3 e6 8.Be3 h6 9.Nh4 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 Qf7 11.0-0 g5 12.Nf3 f5 13.Ne1 Nge7 14.Nc5 Nb8 15.Qb5 b6 16.Nb3 f4 17.Bd2 Ng6 18.a4 h5 19.a5 a6 20.Qe2 0-1 (43) 7.h4 ♗e7 8. ♖g1 ♘h7 (1918)-Baron Cabrera,J (1965) XVIII Open Cappelle la Grande 2002 (6)) 6.exf6 Nxf6 7.c3 Bd6 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.0-0 Qe8 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Nxf3 e5 B 00/10 2000]

5...fxe5 6.dxe5 e6 7.0-0 Alternatively:

[a] 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nge7]
 [b] 7.c4 -0.12/18 7.Nbd2 0.40 Bb4+ 8.Nc3 -0.26/19 (8.Bd2 0.22/20 is superior. Bxd2+ 9.Nbxd2) 8...Nge7 aiming for ...0-0. 9.cxd5 -1.08/20 (9.h3= 0.07/19 Bh5 10.0-0) 9...Qxd5 was already good for Black in Abdlauf, E (2518)-Schneider,I (2483) EU-ch Blitz Katowice 2022.]

7...Bc5 8.Nbd2 -0.15/21

[♞8.h3 0.25/19 Bxf3 9.Qxf3]

8...Nge7= 9.h3 Bh5 10.Nb3 Bb6 11.Qd3 0-0 was nice for Black in Hecht, C (2091)-Maier,A (2311) Bayern-chl Bank Hofmann 17th Bad Wiessee 2013. White did not feel at home in the position after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

B00☐ **Nimzowitsch Defence**☒ **4.d4 d6 5.c4 Nb6 6.e6**

[GM Nigel Davies]

B04: Alekhine's Defence: 4 Nf3

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 d6 5.c4 Nb6 6.e6 A dangerous line, sacrificing a pawn in order to impede

Black's development. There's no choice but to capture. **6...fxe6**

[6...Bxe6 1.79/19 6...fxe6 0.67 7.d5 costs a piece.]

7.Be3 Out of White's many possible setups, this plus 8.h4 appears to be the most dangerous.

[7.Nc3 Threatens to win with d5. g6 1.05/20 (7...e5± 0.60/19) 8.h4± Bg7 9.h5 0.55/19 (Better is 9.Be3± 1.04/20) 9...e5± 10.d5 Nd4 looks OK for Black.]

7...g6 8.h4 White has strong compensation. **8...Bg7**

[8...e5 9.d5 e4 10.Ng5 Ne5 11.Nc3 Bg7]

9.h5N 0.61/18

[9.Nc3 e5 10.d5

A) _____ An engine suggestion is 10...Na5!? 1.82/18 10...Nd4 1.00 11.Bxb6 1.02/19 (11.Nd2+- 1.82/18) 11...axb6± 12.b4 e4! , for example 13.Nxe4 Bf5 1.00/21 (13...Nb3!± 0.55/19 feels stronger. 14.Rb1 Bf5) 14.Ned2± 0-0 15.bxa5 Rxa5 16.Be2 Bxa1 17.Qxa1 Qa8 , and Black is OK.;

B) 10...Nd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Bxd4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 e5 14.dxe6 0-0 is playable for Black.]

[9.Nc3± 1.04/19]

9...e5!± 10.d5 e4 Discovered Attack

[10...Nb4 1.18/19 10...e4 0.59 11.a3 Na6 1.77/18 (11...e4± 1.23/20 was called for.) 12.Ng5 is very good for White.]

11.Ng5 The position is very complicated, but objectively it seems good for White if he plays with engine-like precision.

11...Ne5 Alternatives are as follows:

[a] 11...h6 12.Nxe4 Bxb2 2.42/19 (12...Ne5± 1.01/18 was worth a try.) 13.Nbd2 will get more than enough

for the sacrificed exchange.]

[b] 11...Bxb2 1.56/20 11...Ne5 0.71
12.Nd2 Bxa1 13.Qxa1 Ne5 14.hxg6!
starts to get quite ugly for Black.]

12.hxg6

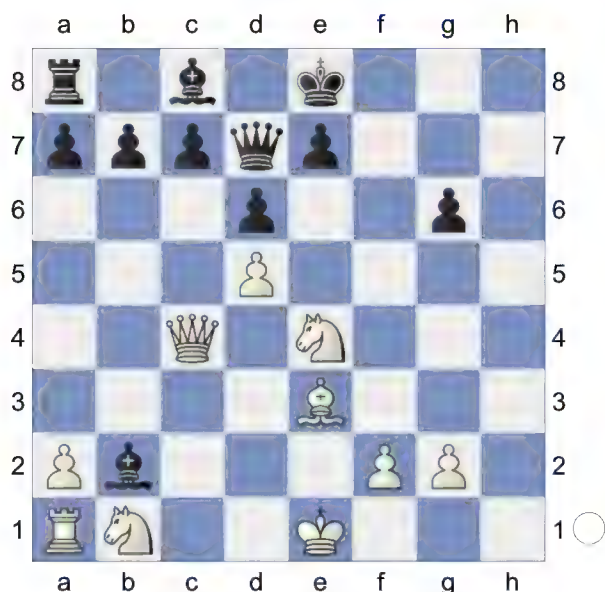
[After 12.Nc3 Black should probably
play Bg4 13.Qc2 c6 , which is not
quite clear.]

[12.Nc3 is more complex. c6 13.dxc6
bxc6 14.h6]

12...hxg6 13.Rxh8+ Bxh8 14.Nxe4
Nbx4 15.Bxc4 Nxc4 16.Qa4+ Qd7?
3.02/21

[16...b5± 0.48/19 17.Qxb5+ Qd7
18.Qxc4 Bxb2]

17.Qxc4+- Bxb2



18.Ng5! Strongly threatening Ne6!
18...Bxa1

[18...e6 19.Nxe6]

19.Ne6 is now good for White, according
to engine analysis.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very
precise) /Black=0.49

□ Nimzowitsch Defence

■ 4.d4 d6 5.c4 Nb6 6.exd6

[GM Nigel Davies]

B05: Alekhine's Defence: 4 Nf3 Bg4

1.e4 Nc6

[The Alekhine's Defence move order
is 1...Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4
Nb6 5.exd6 exd6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Nf3
Bg4 , reaching the main line after
Black's 7th move.]

2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 d6 5.c4
Nb6 6.exd6

[6.Nc3 Bg4 7.exd6 exd6 is another
transposition.]

6...exd6 This is an Exchange Variation
of the Alekhine's Defence, but White
does not have his most dangerous
plans available. 7.Nc3 Bg4

[7...Be7 is more common, but White
can reach the position after 7...Bg4
by playing 6.Nc3 Bg4 7.exd6 exd6.]

8.Be3 Be7 9.Be2N

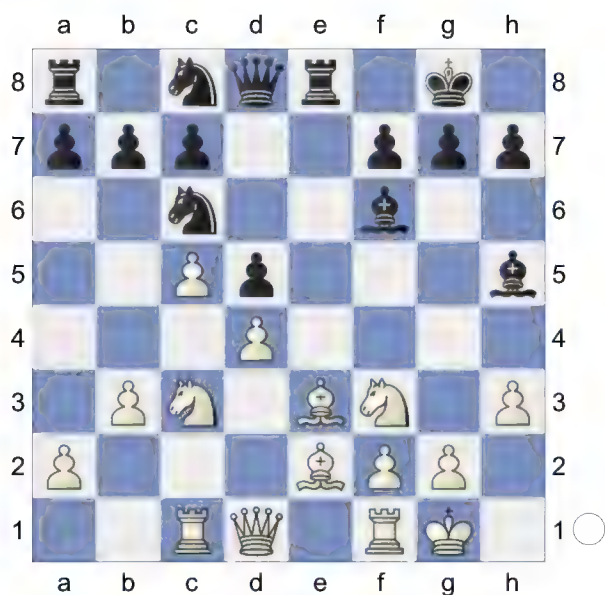
[A more ambitious line is 9.h3 Bh5
10.g4 , for example (10.d5 Ne5
11.g4 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 Bg6
is fine for Black.) 10...Bg6 11.d5
(11.h4 h5 12.g5 47. Nimzowitsch
Defense 1.e4-Nimzowitsch Defense 1.
e4 Nc6) 11...Nb4 12.Rc1 h5
(12...a5!/?) 13.g5 0-0 gives Black
decent play.]

9...0-0 10.b3 Re8 11.0-0 Bf6 12.Rc1
d5 13.c5 Nc8 14.h3

[14.a3 N8e7 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Bxf3
Nf5 And now ...Rxe3 would win.
17.Nxd5 Bxd4 18.Bxd4 -0.26/20
(18.Bf4± 0.45/21 Be5 19.Bxe5 Nxe5
20.Be4) 18...Ncxd4 is more than fine
for Black.]

[14.b4 a6 15.h3 Bh5 transposes
back into the main line.]

14...Bh5



White is slightly better. **15.b4!** 0.55/20
a6

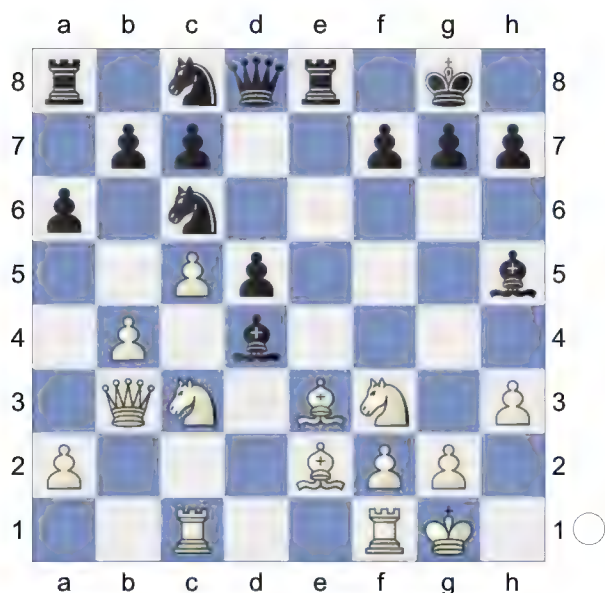
[15...Bxf3 16.Bxf3]

16.Qb3

[And not 16.a4 -0.18/20 16.g4 0.72
Nxb4 17.Rb1 -0.70/22 (17.a5=
-0.17/20) 17...a5 etc.]

16...N8e7

[16...Bxd4



17.Qxd5 0.46/22 (And not 17.Nxd4
0.60/22 17.Rcd1 1.00 Nxd4 18.Bxd4
Bxe2 etc.; 17.Rcd1!± 1.13/22 Bxf3

18.Bxf3 Bxe3 19.fxe3) 17...Qxd5
1.08/22 (Black should play 17...Bxe3±
0.46/22 18.fxe3 Bg6) 18.Nxd5± Bxf3
19.Bxf3 favours White.]

17.g4 Against Nf5 **17...Bg6** 18.g5
0.01/22 White is more active.

[18.Rfd1± 0.64/18]

18...Bxd4!= 19.Bxd4 Nf5 gave Black
excellent compensation in Manyai,Z
(2200)-Gazik,I (2405) Eger Agria op
1989.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very
precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise)

B00

□ Nimzowitsch Defence

■ 4.d4 d6 5.c4 Nb6 6.Nc3

[GM Nigel Davies]

B04: Alekhine's Defence: 4 Nf3

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4
d6 5.c4 Nb6 6.Nc3 Another dangerous
move. e6! would now be deadly. **6...Bg4**
The most promising reply, the
alternatives look difficult for Black:

[a] 6...dxe5 1.11/19 6...Bg4 0.75
7.d5 Nb8 8.Nxe5 N8d7 9.Nxd7
Nxd7 10.Bf4 is very unpleasant.]

[b] 6...g6 7.exd6 cxd6 8.d5 (8.Be3
0.63/20 8.d5 1.04 Bg7) 8...Na5
1.99/19 (8...Nb4± 0.97/19
is a better defense.) 9.Qd4+- Rg8
10.b3 leaves Black busted.]

[c] 6...Bf5 7.Nh4 is very strong.]

7.Be3N This is a really critical test of
Black's play, but it seems unlikely that
you will meet it over the board. I found a
line which looks playable for Black,
though he may find himself in a
somewhat worse endgame in the
unlikely event that White plays all the
right moves. Alternatives are:

[a] 7.exd6 exd6 (7...cxd6 8.d5 Ne5 9.c5 Bxf3 10.gxf3 dxc5 11.Bf4 Qd6 12.Bb5+ Kd8 13.0-0 Agdestein,S-Ghiris,M URS-ch Soviet Union 1983) 8.Be2 Be7! , again with an Exchange Variation of Alekhine's Defence.]

[b] 7.e6 fxe6 8.Be2 g6 9.Ng5 Bxe2 10.Nxe2 Qd7 11.Nf4 -0.62/20 (11.Qd3= 0.00/19 Bg7 12.Nxh7 0-0-0 13.Ng5 Rdf8 Nimzowitsch Defence-4.d4 d6 5.c4 Nb6 6.Be2 2024) 11...e5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qxd7+ Kxd7 14.Nd3! Nxc4 and Black has all the chances in the endgame.]

7...dxe5 I couldn't find a decent alternative, for example:

[a] 7...g6 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Bg7 10.c5 Nd7 11.0-0-0 0-0 12.Bb5 dxe5 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.dxe5 Qc8 15.e6 is very good for White.]

[b] 7...e6 8.exd6 cxd6 9.Qb3 Bxf3 10.gxf3 with d4-d5 in the air.]

8.d5 Nd4 Deflection 9.Bxd4 exd4 10.Qxd4 Bxf3 11.gxf3 e6 Black is weak on the light squares

[I tried to make 11...Qd6 work, but it seems less good. For example 12.0-0-0 (12.c5 0.18/22 12.0-0-0 0.66 e5! 13.Bb5+ Kd8 14.Qh4+ Be7 15.Qg3 Qxc5 16.Qxg7 Rf8 17.0-0-0 a6 also leaves Black struggling to stay in the game.) 12...e5 13.Re1 0.07/19 (13.dxe6± 0.93/20 Black must now prevent Qe4. Qxd4 14.Rxd4) 13...0-0-0= 14.Rxe5 Qf6 15.f4 Strongly threatening c5. Bd6 0.53/20 (15...Kb8= 0.03/20)

A) 16.Kc2!± 0.53/20 was preferable. Qh4 (16...Bxe5 17.fxe5) 17.Re4;

B) 16.Rg1 0.07/19 16...Qh6 0.43/18 (16...Qh4= 0.07/19 17.Rf5

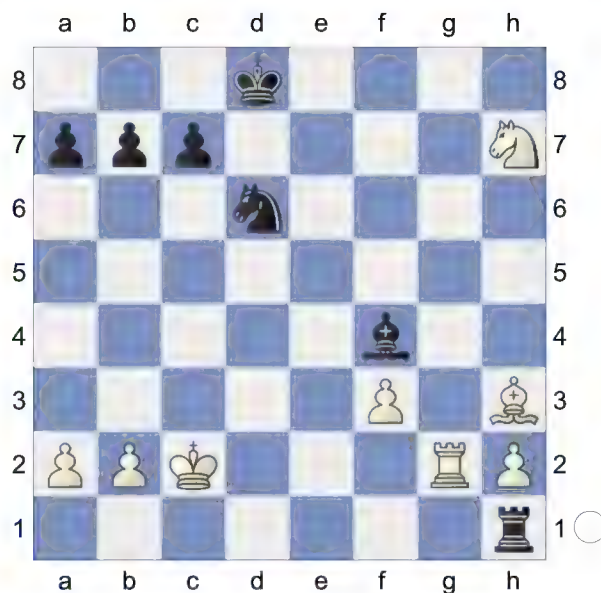
g6 18.Rxf7 Qxh2) 17.Kc2 0.01/20 (17.Reg5!± 0.43/18) 17...Bxe5= 18.fxe5 gives White more than enough for the sacrificed exchange.]

12.0-0-0 White is more active. **12...Qf6 13.Qxf6**

[13.dxe6 Qxd4 0.99/21 (13...fxe6± 0.57/21 feels stronger. 14.Qe3 Be7) 14.Rxd4 0.60/19 (14.exf7+ Kxf7 15.Rxd4 Bd6; 14.exf7+± 0.99/21 Kxf7 15.Rxd4) 14...fxe6 1.10/17 seems playable for Black. (14...f5!± 0.60/19)]

13...gxf6 14.Bh3! Nxc4 15.dxe6 Rd8! 16.Nb5

[I also analyzed 16.Rxd8+ Kxd8 17.exf7 , for example Ne5 18.Rd1+ Bd6 19.f4 Nxf7 20.Nd5 Re8 21.Rd2 Re1+ 22.Kc2 Rh1 23.f3 Bc5 24.Nxf6+ Nd6 25.Nxh7 Be3 26.Rg2! Bxf4



27.Nf8! Hoping for Ne6+. Bxh2 28.Ne6+ Ke7 29.Nxc7 Nc4 and Black should hold.]

16...Bd6 17.Rd4 Repels Bf4+

[17.Nxa7 Bf4+ 18.Kc2 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Nd6±]

17...Ne5 18.f4 0.01/22

[Much worse is 18.Nxa7 Nxf3 19.Ra4 Ng5 (19...Bxh2? 20.Bg2+-) 20.exf7+ Kxf7+]

[18.Rhd1± 0.59/22]

18...Nf3 1.12/23

[18...Ng6= 0.01/22 keeps the balance.]

19.Nxd6+± Rxd6 20.Rxd6 cxd6 Endgame. KRB-KRN 21.Bg2 Nd4 22.exf7+

[Reject 22.Bxb7?! fxe6 23.Rd1 e5= (23...Ne2+ 24.Kd2±)]

22...Kxf7 23.Bxb7 Rd1 is the strong threat. **23...Ne2+ 24.Kd2 Nxf4 25.Rc1 Ke6 26.Ke3 Ng6** when White is still pushing but Black can probably hold. This, like 6.e6, is not at all attractive for Black if White knows what he is doing, meaning computer like precision.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.13 (very precise)

B00

☐ **Nimzowitsch Defence**

☒ **2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3**

[GM Nigel Davies]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3

[White's main move is 3.e5 .]

3...d5 Giving the game an independent twist.

[3...e5 is Black's obvious alternative, transposing into a Four Knights Game after 4.Bb5 (Or, for example, a Scotch Four Knights after 4.d4 .)]

4.e5

[4.exd5 Nxd5 5.Bc4 can be met by Nb6 (5...Be6 is another possibility.) 6.Bb3 Bf5 , transposing into another

line of Alekhine's Defence, with a comfortable game for Black.]

[4.Bb5 is well met by dxe4 5.Ne5 Qd6 , when White struggles to find adequate compensation.]

4...Nd7 A nice positional interpretation.

[4...d4 is another good move, but White can get a slight endgame edge after 5.exf6 dxc3 6.fxg7 cxd2+ 7.Qxd2 Bxg7 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.c3 .]

5.d4 Nb6 Black now wants to develop with 6...Bg4, which White is well advised to prevent. **6.h3N** Dodges Bg4

[6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 e6 9.0-0 g6 10.Rd1 Bg7 11.a4 a5 12.b3 0-0 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Ba3 Re8 15.Ne2 f6 16.Qc3 fxe5 17.dxe5 Nd7 18.f4 g5 19.g3 gxf4 20.gxf4 Qh4 1-0 (25) Dagenais (2542)-5.d3 ♘e7 6.♙e2 ♚c7 4211 (2063) corr WS/M/334 2011 (2)]

6...Bf5 White is slightly better. **7.Nh4** Driving the bishop back, but the knight will also have to retreat.

[White can also play 7.Bd3 , but then Qd7 is a good reply.]

7...Bd7 8.Be2 e6 9.Nf3 Qe7 1.07/17 and Black wants to combine long castling with ...f7-f6. Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening. Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)

[9...Be7 is another option, looking to castle short and play ...f7-f6.]

[9...f6± 0.49/20]

B00

□ **Nimzowitsch Defence**

■ **4.c4 Nb6 5.c5**

[GM Nigel Davies]

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6

[The line we will look at here is similar to 1...Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.c5 in the Alekhine. The difference is that White's knight is committed to f3, and Black's to c6.]

2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.c4 Nb6 5.c5N

[5.d4 d6 6.e6 (6.Be2 Bg4 7.e6 fxe6 8.Nc3 g6 9.Ng5 Bxe2 10.Nxe2 Qd7 11.Qd3 Bg7 12.Nxh7 0-0-0 13.Ng5 Rdf8 Nimzowitsch Defence-4. d4 d6 5.c4 Nb6 6.Be2 2024) 6...fxe6 7.Nc3 g6 (7...e5 8.d5 Nd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Qxd4 e5 11.Qe4 g6 12.Bd3 Bf5 13.Qe2 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Qh4 15.Ne4 Nimzowitsch G2: 2...Nf6-G2: 2...Nf6 #10) 8.Be3 Bg7 9.h4 d5 10.c5 Nd7 11.h5 e5 12.h6 Bf6 13.Nxd5 exd4 14.Nxf6+ exf6 15.Nxd4 Nimzowitsch G2: 2...Nf6-G2: 2...Nf6 #9]

5...Nd5 6.Nc3 The critical reply, but Black can manage.

[6.Bc4 e6! 7.d4 b6! 0.77/18 (7...d6 8.cxd6 cxd6 9.0-0 Be7 transposes, surprisingly, into a 2.c3 Sicilian.; 7...d6± 0.33/20 is superior.) 8.Bxd5± exd5 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Bxe7 Nxe7 is fine for Black.]

6...Nxc3 7.dxc3 e6 8.b4 White is slightly better. **8...b6**

[8...Be7 is also possible,]

[but 8...d6 9.Bg5 is unpleasant because Be7 1.29/21 drops the d6 pawn. (9...f6± 0.53/20)]

9.cxb6 axb6 10.Bd3 Bb7 11.0-0 Be7

12.Qc2 f5 13.exf6 0.35/20

[13.Qe2± 0.74/19]

13...Bxf6± 14.Bxh7 0.01/21

[14.Bd2± 0.58/19]

14...Nxb4= 15.Bg6+ -0.37/19

[15.cxb4= 0.01/21 was preferable. Bxf3 16.Rb1]

15...Kf8 . It seems that White has been making the running, but suddenly he finds himself facing numerous threats.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

B00

□ **Nimzowitsch Defence**

■ **4.d4 d6 5.c4 Nb6 6.Be2**

[GM Nigel Davies]

B05: Alekhine's Defence: 4 Nf3 Bg4

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 d6 5.c4

[5.Be2 dxe5 6.dxe5 Bf5 is very comfortable for Black.]

5...Nb6 6.Be2N

[6.e6 fxe6 7.Be3 g6 8.h4 Bg7 9.Nc3 15) Black's Early Alternative-1... Nc6 with 2...Nf6 e5 10.d5 Nd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Bxd4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 e5 14.dxe6 0-0 15.h5 Qf6 16.0-0-0 Bxe6 17.f3 Rae8 18.Qxf6 Rxf6 19.b3 Kg7 20.Re1 Rf7 21.Bd3 Rfe7 22.h6+ Kf8 23.Re3 d5 24.cxd5 (26) Part Chapter-Games Part 2 Chapter 1]

[6.Nc3 Bg4 7.Be3 dxe5 8.d5 Nd4 9.Bxd4 exd4 10.Qxd4 Bxf3 11.gxf3 e6 12.0-0-0 Qf6 13.Qxf6 gxf6 14.Bh3 Nxc4 15.dxe6 Rd8 16.Nb5 Bd6 17.Rd4 Ne5 18.f4 Nf3 19.Nxd6+ Rxd6 20.Rxd6 cxd6 (26) Nimzowitsch Defence-4.d4 d6 5. c4 Nb6 6.Nc3 2024]

6...Bg4

[6...dxe5 is well met by 7.d5 .]

7.e6

[7.exd6 exd6 transposes into 6.exd6.]

7...fxe6

Black's plan now is to put pressure on d4 with a kingside fianchetto. **8.Nc3**

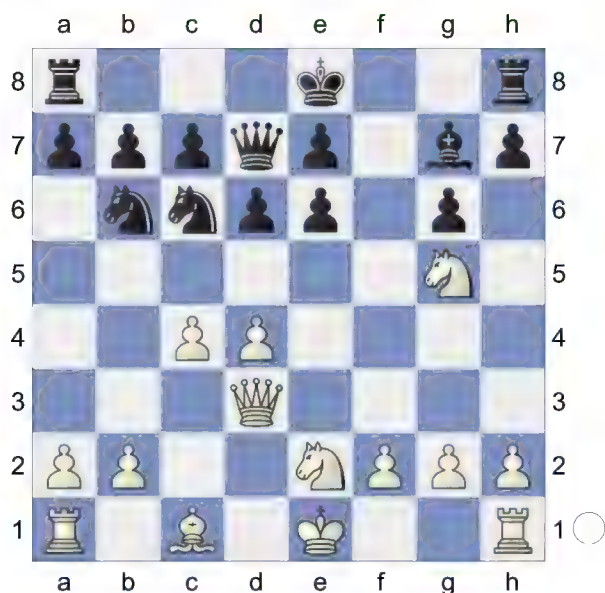
[Or 8.0-0 g6 9.Re1 Bg7 10.d5 exd5 11.cxd5 Nb4 etc.]

8...g6 9.Ng5 Bxe2 10.Nxe2

[10.Qxe2 -0.99/19 10.Nxe2 -0.08 Nxd4]

10...Qd7 11.Qd3 The position is equal.

[11.d5 -1.23/20 11.Qd3 0.27 exd5 12.cxd5 Nb4 leaves White struggling to hold the d5 pawn.]

11...Bg7**12.Nxh7!**

Remove Defender, Decoy

12...0-0-0 13.Ng5

[Or 13.Qxg6? -1.95/19 13.Ng5 0.06 Bxd4 , when Black is ready to use the g-file with ...Rdg8.]

13...Rdf8 Against Nf7.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.00 (flawless)

□ Nimzo Indian Alternative**■ 7...c5 8.O-O cxd4 with 10...a**

Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 -

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.d5

The Rubinstein Variation in Nimzo Indian is one of the oldest and the most tested in practice classical approaches in this opening. Developed in the early 1900s by the top players of that era, popularized mainly by Rubinstein and his e3-Ne2 idea (the Rubinstein Variation in its purest form), these days it went through well-scrutinized analysis by modern top players with the support of best engines. Over the years many variations were tested and tried. With such a strategically sound opening like Nimzo, it is pretty much impossible to find an objective advantage if Black plays sound lines. And it is neither my objective to refute 100+ years of theory that Stockfish and Lc0 support. But finding playable positions that pose some practical problems for players who are not thoroughly familiar with the ideas is highly possible. **4...Nb8 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.Bf4 a6** A rare move but played a couple of times by GMs. The idea is to make space for the bishop on f8 which can be useful in some lines. Black also anticipates cxd5-...exd5 where the rook would be well placed on e8.

[6...g6 7.f3 exf3 8.Nxf3 Bg7 9.0-0 10.Qe2 c6 11.Rad1 cxd5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Rxd5 Qb6+ 14.Be3 Qxb2 15.Rb5 Qc3 16.Rc5 Qa3 17.Ng5 Bg4 18.Rxf7 Rxf7 19.Qf2 Bf5 20.Rc8+ Bf8 21.Bxf7+ 1-0 (22) 8. ♔g5 ♘a6 9. ♘d2 ♙e8 6

(2460)-7. ♟c4 b5 8. ♟e2 59053 (2380)
Saint-Vincent 84/(463) 2002 (4)]

7.Qe2

[7.f3 b5 8.Bb3 c5 9.dxc6 Qxd1+
10.Rxd1 Nxc6 11.Nd5 Nxd5
12.Bxd5 Bb7 13.Bxe4 e6 14.Ne2
Bc5 Nimzo Indian Alternative-7...c5 8.
O-O cxd4 with 10...a Lifetime
Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 - 2023]

7...b5 The most logical follow-up to 6...
Re8 as when the center opens, Black
may try to play ...e5. **8.Bb3** The position
is equal. **8...c5N**

[8...Nbd7 9.0-0-0 Nc5 10.f3 Qd7
11.Nxe4 Nfxe4 12.fxe4 a5 13.a3
Nxb3+ 14.cxb3 g6 15.Nf3 Bg7
16.Kb1 0-0 17.Rc1 b4 18.a4 Qg4
19.Bxc7 Ba6 20.Qe3 Qxg2 21.Be5
Qe2 22.Qxe2 Bxe2 23.Bxg7
 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (49) Samulevicius, T (2215)-1.e4
player (2450) 9/460 Wijk aan Zee
1970 (1)]

9.dxc6!

[9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Qxe4 c4 11.Bxc4
bxc4 12.Qxc4 Bb7 $\neq$]

9...Nxc6 10.Rd1 I think the rook on e8
is not much help for Black. In fact, in
some lines, it is really misplaced!

[10.Nxe4 Nd4 11.Nxf6+ -0.54/5
(11.Qe3= -0.18/20 Nxe4 12.Rd1
Qa5+ 13.c3) 11...gxf6 $\neq$ 12.Qh5
Nxb3 13.axb3 Bb7]

10...Qa5 11.Bd2 Nd4 This happened in
Dziuba-Gajewski (2020). **12.Nxe4! Qc7**
13.Nxf6+ -1.07/20

[13.Bf4! Qxf4 (13...Qa5+ 14.Bd2
Qc7) 14.Rxd4 Nxe4 15.Bd5
Against Bb7 Ra7 16.Bxe4

A) 16...Qc1+ 0.24/22 16...Rd7 -0.
15

A1) 17.Qd1 -0.76/21 17.Rd1 0.
61 Qxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Bb7
-0.32/20 Inhibits Bc6+.

(18...Rc7 $\neq$ -0.71/18);

A2) 17.Rd1 Qxb2 White must
now prevent ...Qc3+. 18.Bc6+;

B) 16...Rd7! 17.Qd2 -0.79/21
(17.Rxd7 $\neq$ -0.36/20 might be
stronger. Bxd7 18.Nf3)
17...Qxd2+ $\neq$ 18.Rxd2 Rxd2
19.Kxd2 e5]

[13.Qe3 -1.19/21 13.Bf4 -0.29 Nxb3!

A) 14.Nxf6+ gxf6

A1) 15.cxb3 Rg8 16.g3 -2.08/21
(16.Kf1 $\neq$ -1.14/19 is a better
defense.) 16...Bb7+ 17.f3 Rd8
-1.12/19 (Black should play
17...Rg5+ -2.09/21 18.Bc3 Rf5)
18.Rc1 -2.03/21 (18.Ne2 $\neq$
-1.12/19) 18...Qd6+ 19.Ba5
Rd7 -0.64/21 (19...Rg5!-+
-1.99/21 20.f4 Rd5 21.Bxd8
Qxd8)

A1a) 20.Ne2 -1.87/22

20.Nh3 -0.53 Rg5! 21.Qc3
e6! 22.a3 Rc5 23.Qxc5 Qxc5
24.Rxc5 Bxc5 25.Rf1 e5
26.Nc1 Ke7 -1.12/22
($\triangle$ 26...f5 -1.51/21 27.Ke2
Bd4) 27.Ke2 $\neq$ Ke6 -0.58/23
(Better is 27...Bd5! $\neq$ -1.15/21
28.Bb4 Rc7 29.Bxc5+ Rxc5)
28.Nd3 $\neq$ Ba7 29.Bc3?
-2.93/25 (29.Nb4 $\neq$ -0.68/22)
29...Bd5 -1.73/22 ($\triangle$ 29...b4!
-2.93/25 30.Bd2 a5) 30.f4+
Be4! 31.Rd1 -2.09/26
(31.Nf2 $\neq$ -1.58/24 Bc2
32.b4) 31...Rxd3 32.Rxd3
Bxd3+ 33.Kxd3 Kd5 -0.97/25
(33...exf4+ -2.17/23 34.gxf4
Kf5) 34.h3 -1.43/25
($\triangle$ 34.fxe5 -0.97/25 fxe5
35.g4) 34...e4+ $\neq$ 35.Kd2 f5
36.g4 fxg4 37.hxg4 Bb6
38.Ke2 a5 ...a4 would now be

deadly. 39.Bd2? -5.46/24
(39.a4? -1.05/23

was the crucial defense.)

39...a4!-+ 40.Bc3? -10.88/23

(40.bxa4 -3.67/22 bxa4

41.Bb4) 40...axb3-+ 41.Bd2

Bd4 42.Bc1 Ke6 43.Kd2

-11.77/26 (43.f5+ -5.14/23

Ke5 44.Kd1) 43...f5-+ 44.g5

Kf7;

A1b) 20.Nh3? e5 21.Nf2 f5

22.Qe2 -1.11/19 (22.Rd1

-0.75/21 Qc5 23.Qxc5 Bxc5

24.Ke2) 22...f6 23.0-0 Rgg7

24.Rfd1 Qe6;

A2) 15.cxb3? -1.11/20 Rg8

16.Rc1;

A3) 15.Qxb3 -1.64/20 15...Rg8-+

16.g3 Bb7 17.f3 e6 18.Bf4

-1.75/21 (18.Ne2? -1.21/18

might work better.) 18...e5-+

19.Be3 Rc8 20.Qd3 e4 21.fxe4

f5 -1.51/20 (21...Qe7-+ -1.98/22

22.Nf3 Bxe4);

B) 14.cxb3 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Bb7

16.Qg4 Qe5+ -0.50/21 (16...h5?

-1.54/20 17.Qh3 Qe5+ 18.Be3

e6) 17.Kf1 -1.70/19 (17.Be3!?

-0.50/21 e6 18.Nf3 Qxb2 19.0-0)

17...Rd8 18.Ba5 Rxd1+ 19.Qxd1

Qd5 -0.85/19 (19...f6 -1.31/19

20.Qd2 Kf7) 20.Qxd5? Bxd5

21.Nf3 e6 22.Ke2 Bd6 23.Rc1]

[13.Qd3 Nxb3 14.Bf4

A) 14...Qa5+ 15.c3 Bg4 -0.17/22

(15...Ra7!? -0.80/20 Threatens to

win with ...Rd7. 16.Qe3 Rd7

17.Rxd7 Kxd7) 16.f3= Rd8

17.Qxd8+ Qxd8 18.Rxd8+ Kxd8

19.axb3 Nxe4 20.fxe4 f6 21.h3

Bd7;

B) 14...Nc5 15.Bxc7 Nxd3+

16.cxd3 Bb7]

[13.Bf4? -0.35/22 Qa5+ (13...Qxf4

14.Rxd4 Nxe4 15.Bd5=) 14.Bd2]

13...gxf6? Here, White can put a lot of

pressure on the e6- and f7-pawns.

14.Qe4

[14.Qh5 -1.71/21 14.Qe4 -0.45 Nxb3!

15.cxb3 Qe5+ -0.64/22 (15...Rg8;

15...Rg8? -1.60/21 And now ...Bg4

would win. 16.Rc1 Qd7) 16.Qxe5?

fxe5 17.Ne2 Bb7 18.0-0 Rg8

19.Ng3 e6 -0.42/18 (19...h5?

-0.80/21 ...h4 is the strong threat.

20.f3 h4) 20.f3 0-0-0 -0.28/19

(Black should try 20...Rc8? -0.73/18)

21.b4 f5]

[14.Qd3 e5 0.04/20 (14...Nxb3?

-1.07/20 15.axb3 Bb7) 15.c3?

-1.56/21 (15.Ne2= 0.04/20 Nxb3

16.cxb3) 15...Nxb3? 16.axb3 Bb7

-0.86/22 (16...Qc6 -1.58/20 17.Qf3

Bb7 18.Qxc6+ Bxc6) 17.Nf3? Rd8

18.Qf5 Qc6 19.0-0? -4.40/23

(19.Nh4? -0.91/21) 19...Rg8-+

20.Kh1 Qe6? -1.29/20 (20...Bc8-+

-4.28/23 and Black stays clearly on

top. 21.Qxh7 Rxd2 22.Kxd2 Bg4)

21.Qxe6+? fxe6]

14...Bb7 Black must accept the pawn

sac.

[14...Nxb3? 0.01/21 14...Bb7 -1.78

15.Qxa8± is typically better for White,

but after 8...Bxc3 9.Bxc3 not 9...

Nbd7?! 10.b3! \$14 with the bishops

pair, but CC StartFEN CC rnbqr1k1/

pp3ppp/4pn2/2pp4/2PP4/P1BBPN2/

1P3PPP/R2QK2R b KQ - 0

9CC EndFEN CC 9...cxd4! Black

equalizes after 10.exd4 dxc4 11.Bxc4

b6= or CC StartFEN CC rnbqr1k1/

pp3ppp/4pn2/3p4/2Pp4/P1BBPN2/

1P3PPP/R2QK2R w KQ - 0

10CC EndFEN CC 10.Bxd4 Nc6=.

White's best try is

CC StartFEN CC rnbqr1k1/pp3ppp/4pn2/3p4/2Pp4/P1BBPN2/1P3PPP/R2QK2R w KQ - 0 10 CC EndFEN CC 10.Nxd4!? e5 and we can see now the benefit of playing ...Re8 earlier - the rook nicely supports ...e5. 11.Ne2

The pair of bishops may matter in the long run if Black does not do anything about it. However, with few logical moves, Black gets a very good game. 11...Nc6! The best and the most logical move for Black in this position. 12.O-O Bg4! Black wants to provoke the weakening f3; also, there is an idea of ...d4. 13.cxd5 Nxd5! Black needs to play this move to equalize. It is essential to eliminate the pair of bishops, and unfortunately, White cannot do anything about it. 14.Rc1 Qg5! \$132 with a double-edged play. I believe Black is completely okay, and White needs to be careful to not get worse. There could be threats around our king, and ideas of ...e4 and ...Ne5 are not so easy to deal with. CC StartFEN CC r2qr1k1/pp3ppp/2n2n2/3Pp3/6b1/P1BBP3/1P2NPPP/R2Q1RK1 b - - 0 13 CC EndFEN CC 13...Qxd5 is less good due to 14.Qb1! Rad8 15.Rd1 Qb3 16.Re1 \$14 and White retains the pair of bishops. Next, White wants to play Bc2, Ng3 and slowly improve their position. Nxd2! is another option, but I like it less. Note that after 16.Rxd2, at the very least White can transpose to the 6...b6 line with Bh6

A) 17.Re2 0-0 Hoping for ...Qa5+. 18.Qf3 -0.84/21 (18.Qe4= -0.27/22 remains equal.) 18...Qa5+ 19.Kf1 Qxa2;

B) 17.Rd1 and we are back at the main line. However,

CC StartFEN CC rnbqr1k1/p1p2ppp/1p2pn2/3p4/1bPP4/2NBPN2/PP1B1PPP/R2QK2R w KQ - 0 8 CC EndFEN CC 8.O-O is also good: 8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 is analyzed after 7...dxc4. This is by far the most accurate variation as it offers the most flexibility in the subsequent choice of setups, depending on what White chooses to play. Generally, I would suggest two different setups for White here, just to add more flexibility and choice when facing 17...Qxc2 . 18.Nf3 0-0 19.O-O Qxb2]

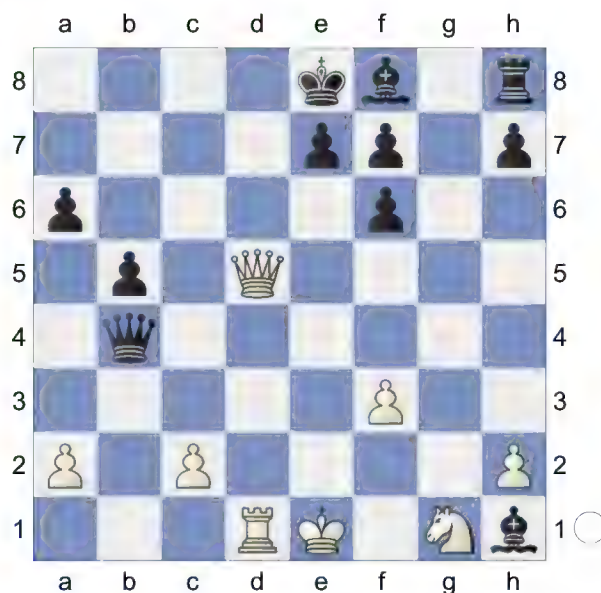
15.Qxd4 Bxg2 16.Bd5 Rd8

[16...Bxh1? 17.Bxh1 Rc8 18.Ne2+-]

17.f3! White has a very strong initiative. Black needs to be extremely careful now.

17...e6

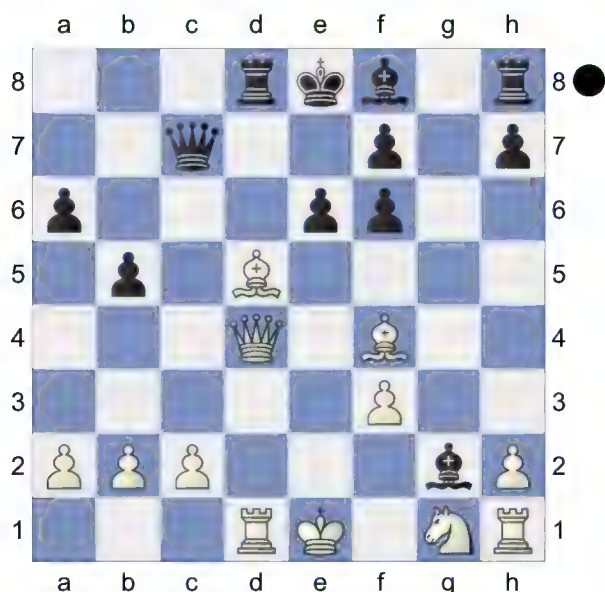
[17...Bxh1!? 2.55/21 17...Rc8 -0.90 is interesting too. 18.Ba5! Qxa5± . The bishop retreats in advance, anticipating ...b5. 19.b4 was played by Dziuba. I think Black is fine after: Rxd5 (19...Qc7∞ or 15...Nb6?! 16.Ne5↑ . Now 20.Bc6+) 20.Qxd5 Qxb4+



21.Rd2! Qxd2+ 22.Kxd2]

18.Bf4

[18.Qxf6? -2.87/21 18.Bf4 -1.26 Rxd5 19.Qxh8 aiming for Bb4! Qxc2 20.Ne2 Bxh1 Re1 is coming, and we can keep pressing.]



White threatens Bc6+! and mate.

18...Bd6! The best defense.

[And not 18...Qxc2 19.Bc6+ Qxc6 20.Qxd8#]

19.Qxf6 Rg8 20.Be4 -1.04/22 Bxh1 Discovered Attack 21.Ne2!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.02 (flawless)

B00

□ Nimzo Indian Alternative

■ 7...Bf8

Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 -

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.d5 The Rubinstein Variation in Nimzo Indian is one of the oldest and the most tested in practice classical approaches in this

opening. Developed in the early 1900s by the top players of that era, popularized mainly by Rubinstein and his e3-Ne2 idea (the Rubinstein Variation in its purest form), these days it went through well-scrutinized analysis by modern top players with the support of best engines. Over the years many variations were tested and tried. With such a strategically sound opening like Nimzo, it is pretty much impossible to find an objective advantage if Black plays sound lines. And it is neither my objective to refute 100+ years of theory that Stockfish and Lc0 support. But finding playable positions that pose some practical problems for players who are not thoroughly familiar with the ideas is highly possible. 4...Nb8 5.Bf4 Nf6 6.Bc4

[6.f3 e5 7.Bxe5 (7.dxe6 Qxd1+ 8.Rxd1 Threatens to win with exf7+. Bxe6) 7...Bc5 Wards off Qd4]

6...a6 A rare move but played a couple of times by GMs. The idea is to make space for the bishop on f8 which can be useful in some lines. Black also anticipates cxd5...exd5 where the rook would be well placed on e8.

[6...g6 7.f3 exf3 8.Nxf3 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2 c6 11.Rad1 cxd5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Rxd5 Qb6+ 14.Be3 Qxb2 15.Rb5 Qc3 16.Rc5 Qa3 17.Ng5 Bg4 18.Rxf7 Rxf7 19.Qf2 Bf5 20.Rc8+ Bf8 21.Bxf7+ 1-0 (22) 8. ♔g5 ♘a6 9. ♘d2 ♙e8 6 (2460)-7. ♙c4 b5 8. ♙e2 59053 (2380) Saint-Vincent 84/(463) 2002 (4)]

7.f3N

[7.Qe2 b5 8.Bb3 c5 9.dxc6 Nxc6 10.Rd1 Qa5 11.Bd2 Nd4 12.Nxe4 Qc7 13.Nxf6+ gxf6 14.Qe4 Bb7 15.Qxd4 Bxg2 16.Bd5 Rd8 17.f3 e6

18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Qxf6 Rg8 20.Be4
Bxh1 21.Ne2 Gaidukevich,S-Bartosek,
M FRA-BEL m1 Paris 1972]

7...b5



Strongly threatening ...e5. The position is equal. 8.Bb3 c5 ...e5! is the strong threat.

[This is by far the most accurate variation as it offers the most flexibility in the subsequent choice of setups, depending on what White chooses to play. Generally, I would suggest two different setups for White here, just to add more flexibility and choice when facing 8...exf3 0.57/20 8...c5 -0.23 . 9.Nxf3 (9.Qxf3 0.01/17 9.Nxf3 0.53)]

[8...Bb7 9.fxe4

A) 9...b4 10.Na4 Nxe4 2.30/19
(10...e6± 1.19/19) 11.Qd4 1.11/20
(11.Qe2+- 2.30/19 e5 12.Qxe4);

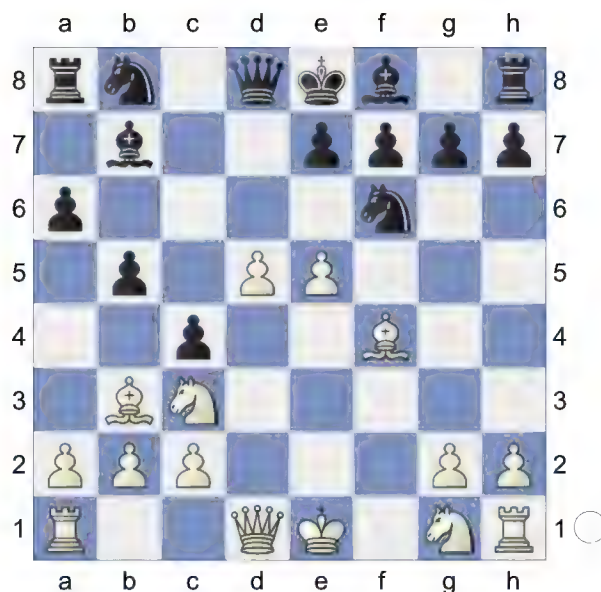
B) 9...c5 10.e5 c4

(Diagram)

11.Bxc4! bxc4 12.exf6]

[8...e3]

9.dxc6



[9.Nxe4? is the wrong capture. c4
10.Ne2 Nxd5-+ (10...cxb3?
11.Nxf6+ exf6 12.d6-+; 10...cxb3?
11.Nxf6+ exf6 12.Ng3-+)]

[But not 9.fxe4 e5 10.Bxe5 c4
11.Bxc4 bxc4±]

9...Qxd1+ 10.Rxd1

[10.Kxd1 simplifies exf3 11.Nxf3
Nxc6 12.Nd5]

10...Nxc6 11.Nd5

[Black prepares ...c5, avoiding a3. After 11.Nxe4 Nxe4! is strong. On the other hand, this move wastes a tempo. 12.Bd5 is another option, but I like it less. Note that after Bb7, at the very least White can transpose to the 6...b6 line with 13.Bxe4 e6 and we are back at the main line. However, CC StartFEN CC rnbqr1k1/p1p2ppp/1p2pn2/3p4/1bPP4/2NBPN2/PP1B1PPP/R2QK2R w KQ - 0 8CC EndFEN CC 8.O-O is also good: 8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 is analyzed after 7... dxc4.]

11...Nxd5 Intending Ne2 and Bc3, e.g.
12.Bxd5 Bb7 next ...exf3 is good for Black. 13.Bxe4 e6 14.Ne2 Bc5±
. An uneventful encounter.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

B00

□ Nimzo Indian Alternative

■ 7...c5 8.O-O cxd4 with 10...a

Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 -

B00: Queen's Fianchetto Defence, Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.d5

The Rubinstein Variation in Nimzo Indian is one of the oldest and the most tested in practice classical approaches in this opening. Developed in the early 1900s by the top players of that era, popularized mainly by Rubinstein and his e3-Ne2 idea (the Rubinstein Variation in its purest form), these days it went through well-scrutinized analysis by modern top players with the support of best engines. Over the years many variations were tested and tried. With such a strategically sound opening like Nimzo, it is pretty much impossible to find an objective advantage if Black plays sound lines. And it is neither my objective to refute 100+ years of theory that Stockfish and Lc0 support. But finding playable positions that pose some practical problems for players who are not thoroughly familiar with the ideas is highly possible. This is by far the most accurate variation as it offers the most flexibility in the subsequent choice of setups, depending on what White chooses to play. Generally, I would suggest two different setups for White here, just to add more flexibility and choice when facing 4...Nb8 . 5.Bf4 Nf6

6.Bc4

[6.f3 e5 7.Bxe5 (7.dxe6 Qxd1+

8.Rxd1 And now exf7+ would win. Bxe6 With a perpetual. 30) Nimzo Indian: Alternative-7...c5 8.O-O cxd4 with 10...a Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 - 2023) 7...Bc5]

6...a6 A rare move but played a couple of times by GMs. The idea is to make space for the bishop on f8 which can be useful in some lines. Black also anticipates cxd5-...exd5 where the rook would be well placed on e8.

[6...g6 7.f3 exf3 8.Nxf3 Bg7 9.O-O 0-0 10.Qe2 c6 11.Rad1 cxd5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Rxd5 Qb6+ 14.Be3 Qxb2 15.Rb5 Qc3 16.Rc5 Qa3 17.Ng5 Bg4 18.Rxf7 Rxf7 19.Qf2 Bf5 20.Rc8+ Bf8 21.Bxf7+ 1-0 (22) 8. ♔g5 ♜a6 9. ♜d2 ♔e8 6 (2460)-7. ♜c4 b5 8. ♜e2 59053 (2380) Saint-Vincent 84/(463) 2002 (4)]

7.f3N -0.21/20

[7.Qe2 b5 8.Bb3 c5 9.dxc6 Nxc6 10.Rd1 Qa5 11.Bd2 Nd4 12.Nxe4 Qc7 13.Nxf6+ gxf6 14.Qe4 Bb7 15.Qxd4 Bxg2 16.Bd5 Rd8 17.f3 e6 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Qxf6 Rg8 20.Be4 Bxh1 21.Ne2 Gaidukevich,S-Bartosek, M FRA-BEL m1 Paris 1972]

[♞7.Nge2 0.26/19]

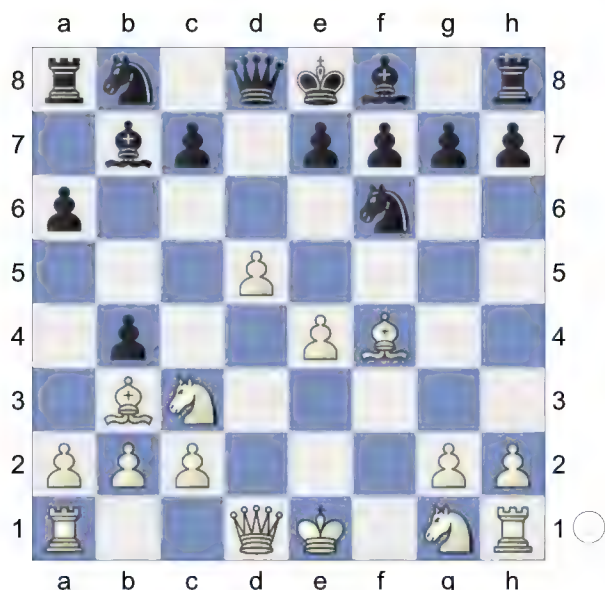
7...b5= The most logical follow-up to 6... Re8 as when the center opens, Black may try to play ...e5. 8.Bb3 c5 aiming for ...c4.

[8...exf3 0.33/21 8...c5 -0.09 Here Black has only one move that easily equalizes. 9.Nxf3! With this move Black should equalize. (9.Qxf3 0.02/18 9.Nxf3 0.49)]

[8...Bb7 9.fxe4

A) 9...b4 1.31/18 9...c5 0.87

(Diagram)



10.Na4! Nxe4 2.33/19 (10...e5± 1.26/19) 11.Qd4! Black has only one move now.;

B) 9...c5 Hoping for ...c4. 10.e5 With a symmetrical structure and equal chances. 30) Nimzo Indian: Alternative-7...c5 8.O-O cxd4 with 10...a Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 - 2023 c4 1.46/19 This is extremely risky for Black. (10...Nfd7 0.76/18) 11.Bxc4± bxc4 12.exf6!]

[8...e3 Unbelievable, but Black seems to hold here according to the engine. However, on human level, it looks incredibly scary, so I would be happy to get such position with White.]

9.dxc6!

[9.Nxe4? too greedy. c4 10.d6 cxb3-+]

[Don't play 9.fxe4 e5 10.Bxe5 c4 11.Bxc4 bxc4?]

9...Qxd1+ The position is equal.

10.Rxd1 I think the rook on e8 is not much help for Black. In fact, in some lines, it is really misplaced! **10...Nxc6**

11.Nd5

[11.Nxe4! Nxe4?! 12.Bd5±

Heading towards the e4-square at some point. Heading towards the e4-square at some point. 30) Nimzo Indian: Alternative-7...c5 8.O-O cxd4 with 10...a Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 - 2023 Bb7 13.Bxe4 e6]

11...Nxd5 It makes sense to drop the bishop back to f8 as the rook, in a way, made space for the bishop there. But there is also a drawback of this move - when White plays Bg5, there will be a potentially unpleasant pin. **12.Bxd5 Bb7** **13.Bxe4 e6** White should go for action in the center with d5. Either immediately, or after **14.Ne2 Bc5** . Not much happened in this game.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)



B00

1.e4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	... Nc6 ¹	Nc3 ² e6 ³	d4 Bb4	Nge2 ⁴ d5	e5 h5 ⁵	Nf4 g6	Be3 Bxc3+ ⁶	-+
2				Nf3 d6	Bf4 Nge7	Be2 Bxc3+	bx c3 0-0 ⁷	≠
3			Nf3!? Bb4 ⁸	Ne2! ⁹ Be7 ¹⁰	d4 d6	Ng3 Nf6	c3 0-0 ¹¹	
4		Nf3 g6 ¹²	d4 Bg7	Nc3 ¹³ d6	Be3 ¹⁴ Nf6 ¹⁵	h3 ¹⁶ 0-0 ¹⁷	Qd2 ¹⁸ e5 ¹⁹	
5		... e6	d4 d5	e5 ²⁰ b6 ²¹	c3 Nce7	Bd3 a5	Qe2 Nf5 ²²	=
6		... e5	d4 exd4	Nxd4 ²³ Bb4+ ²⁴	c3 Be7	Nxc6 ²⁵ bxc6	Bd3 d6 ²⁶	
7			Bb5 a6 ²⁷	Ba4 b5	Bb3 Na5	Bxf7+ ²⁸ Kxf7	Nxe5+ Ke7 ²⁹	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	...	...	Bc4 Bc5	c3 Nf6	d3 a6	Bb3 0-0	0-0 d6 ³⁰	
9	...	...	d4 Nf6 ³¹	Nc3 ³² g6 ³³	Bb5 ³⁴ Bd7 ³⁵	e5 dxe5	dxe5 Ng4 ³⁶	
10	...	...	...	...	Be3 ³⁷ e5 ³⁸	d5 ³⁹ Ne7	h3 Bd7 ⁴⁰	
11	...	...	exd5 Qxd5	Nc3 Qa5 ⁴¹	Bb5 ⁴² Bd7	d4 ⁴³ a6	Bxc6 ⁴⁴ Bxc6 ⁴⁵	
12	...	...	Nc3 d5 ⁴⁶	e5 ⁴⁷ Nd7 ⁴⁸	d4 Nb6	h3N ⁴⁹ Bf5	Nh4 ⁵⁰ Bd7 ⁵¹	
13	...	...	e5 Nd5 ⁵²	d4 ⁵³ d6 ⁵⁴	c4 ⁵⁵ Nb6	e6 ⁵⁶ fxe6 ⁵⁷	Be3 ⁵⁸ g6 ⁵⁹	±
14	...	d4 d6 ⁶⁰	d5 Nb8	c4 ⁶¹ Nf6	Nc3 g6	h3 ⁶² Bg7	Nf3 0-0 ⁶³	
15	...	...	...	f4 Nd7 ⁶⁴	Nf3 c6	c4 Ngf6 ⁶⁵	Nc3 g6 ⁶⁶	
16	...	...	dxe5 ⁶⁷ Nxe5 ⁶⁸	f4 ⁶⁹ Nc6!?	Nf3 ⁷⁰ Bc5 ⁷¹	Nc3 ⁷² d6 ⁷³	Na4 Bb4+!? ⁷⁴	
17	...	...	...	...	Nf3 ⁷⁵ Bc5	Bc4 ⁷⁶ d6	Ng5 Nh6 ⁷⁷	
18	...	...	...	Nf3 Nxf3+ ⁷⁸	Qxf3 ⁷⁹ Qf6 ⁸⁰	Nc3 Qxf3	gxf3 Bb4 ⁸¹	
19	...	...	d5 Nce7 ⁸²	Nf3 ⁸³ Ng6 ⁸⁴	h4 ⁸⁵ h5	c4 ⁸⁶ Bc5	Nc3 Nf6 ⁸⁷	
20	...	...	...	c4 Ng6	Nc3 ⁸⁸ Nf6 ⁸⁹	f3 ⁹⁰ Bc5	Bd3 Bb6 ⁹¹	
21	...	...	...	f4 Ng6	f5 ⁹² Qh4+	Kd2 Nf6	fxg6 Nxe4+ ⁹³	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
22	...	...	exd5 ⁹⁴	Nf3 ⁹⁵	Nc3 ⁹⁷	d5	Be2	
	...	d5	Qxd5	Bg4 ⁹⁶	Qh5 ⁹⁸	0-0-0 ⁹⁹	Bxf3 ¹⁰⁰	
23	...	...	e5	Bb5 ¹⁰²	Nf3	0-0	Bxc6 ¹⁰⁴	
	...	...	Bf5 ¹⁰¹	Qd7	e6 ¹⁰³	a6	Qxc6 ¹⁰⁵	±
24	...	...	...	c3	Nd2 ¹⁰⁷	f4 ¹⁰⁹	Be2	
	...	...	...	e6 ¹⁰⁶	Qd7 ¹⁰⁸	h5	h4 ¹¹⁰	
25	...	...	...	...	Nf3	h3	Be2	
	...	...	...	h5	h4	e6	f6 ¹¹¹	
26	...	...	...	Bb5 ¹¹²	Ne2! ¹¹⁴	0-0	Re1	
	...	...	f6	Bd7 ¹¹³	e6! ¹¹⁵	Qe7 ¹¹⁶	0-0-0 ¹¹⁷	
27	...	...	...	Bf4N	dxe5	Bd3 ¹¹⁹	Qxd3	
	...	...	...	fxe5 ¹¹⁸	Bf5	Bxd3 ¹²⁰	e6 ¹²¹	

¹ The line we will look at here is similar to 1...Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.c5 in the Alekhine. The difference is that White's knight is committed to f3, and Black's to c6.

1...d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 [4.Be3]

² **2.Bb5** Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: 'Strange after the strange.' 2...d5 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'last book move' ChessBase: 'That is good now.' 3.exd5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '♣' ChessBase: '?' ChessBase: 'Terrible.' '♣'

[3.Bxc6+ bxc6 4.e5 (4.d3) 4...e6±] [3.Nc3]

[3.Qe2 would be good options.]

3...Qxd5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: 'That is dream to do with bishop on b5.' 4.Bxc6+ Qxc6 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: 'White gave bishop pair and is strategically lost, after 4

moves!' 5.f3

[5.Nf3 Qe4+ (5...Bg4 destroys.) 6.Kf1 Bg4=]

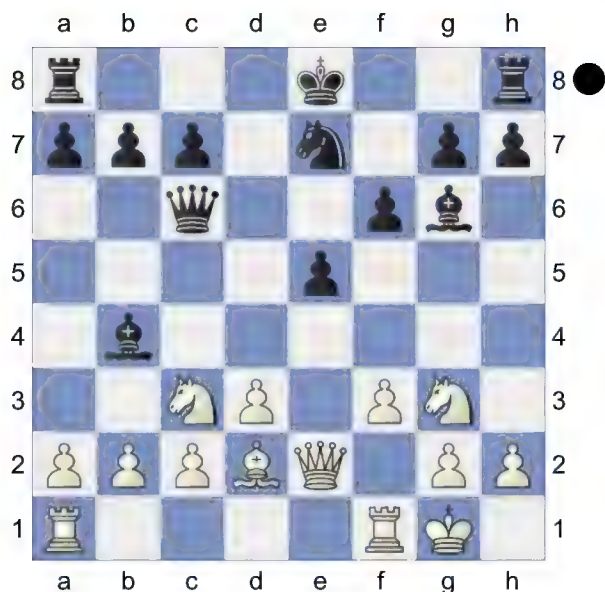
5...Bf5 6.d3 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: 'Strange two times reversed Caro-Kann is just bad here.' 6...e5 7.Be3 Nf6

[7...Bb4+! 8.Bd2 Bc5!]

8.Nc3 Bb4 9.Nge2 Nd5 10.Bd2 Ne7 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: '?!' ChessBase: 'Wastes time. Must not be suggested. Knight could come there immediatelly.' 11.Ng3 Bg6 12.Qe2 f6 13.0-0 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: '

(Diagram)

" 13...0-0-0 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: '!' ChessBase: 'With such powerful bishop pair Black should play actively. Casling kingside would not be as good,



White will set knight on e4 with problems for Black to improve."

14.a3 Bd6 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: '?' ChessBase: 'Bad retreat.'

[14...Ba5! 15.b4? Bb6+ 16.Kh1 Bd4+-]

15.b4 f5 16.Qf2 Kb8 17.b5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: '



" 17...Qc5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: 'Black can comfortably go for endgame. He has bishop pair, White has weak pawns.'"

18.Kh1 h5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: '

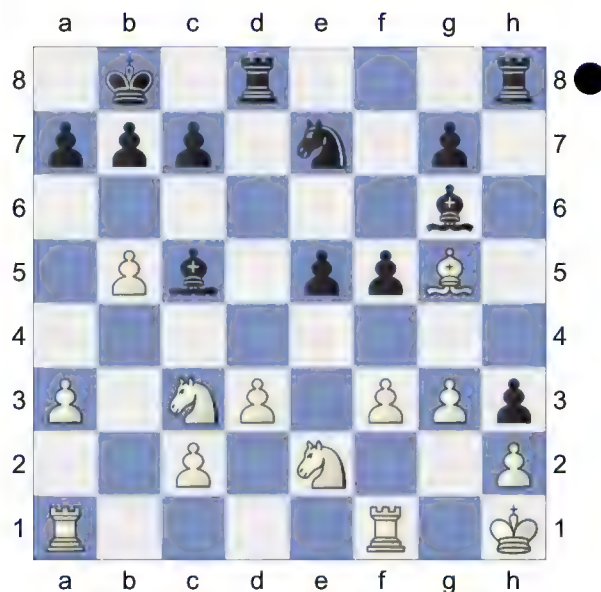
'Generally it is good to set pawns on white bishop's color, but White can not well preven ...h4.' 19.Qxc5

[19.h4 Qxf2 20.Rxf2 f4 21.Nge4 Bxe4 and h4-pawn falls.]

19...Bxc5 20.Bg5 h4 21.Nge2 h3

Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: '!"

22.g3 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: '



" 22...Bh5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: '?'

[22...Rde8 No ned to rush, first to get rid of pin.]

23.a4 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: '?'

[23.g4! fxg4 24.Ne4 gxf3 25.N2g3 f2 26.Nxh5 Rxh5 27.Nxc5 Rxc5 28.Ne6 Rg1+ 29.Rxc5 fxc5 30.Rxc5 Rd6 31.Nxc7 is forced line giving Black nothing evident.]

23...Rd7 24.Ng1 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: '?' ChessBase: 'White wrongly wants to take pawn.'

[24.g4! fxg4 25.Ne4 b6 26.N2g3 gxf3 27.Nxh5 Rxh5 28.Rxf3 and White is great.]

24...Bf7 25.Bh4 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '♣'

[25.a5!?=]

25...Ng6 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Black is in command' 26.Nxh3 Fritz 5.00 (5s):

'-+'

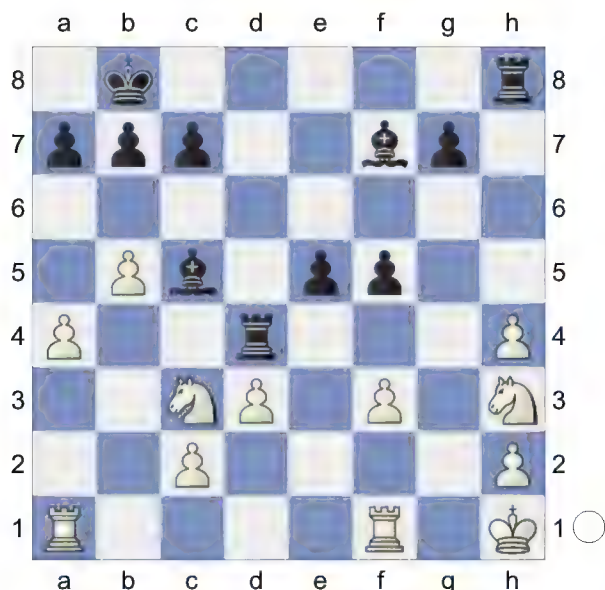
[26.Bg5!? ♣]

26...Nxb4 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '♣'

[26...Bd4 27.Ra3 Nxb4]

27.gxb4 Rd4 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '♣' ChessBase: '

[27...Bd4!? 28.Ra3 Rxb4 ♣]



White is lost." ' ♣' 28.f4 Bb4 29.Ne2 Bd5+ 30.Kg1 Bc5 Fritz 5.00 (5s):

'ChessBase: 'Even that.' 31.Nf2

[31.Nxd4? Bxd4+ 32.Rf2 (32.Nf2) 32...Bxa1-+]

31...Rxb4 32.h3 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '♣'

[32.Nxd4 Bxd4 33.Rfc1 Rxf4 34.h3-+]

32...Rb4 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch: '!' ChessBase: '!'

[32...exf4?! 33.Nxd4 Bxd4 34.Rae1=]

[32...Bf3 33.Nxd4 Bxd4 34.Kh2! Bxa1 35.Rxa1 Rxf4 36.Rg1 Bd5 37.Nd1 Rxa4 38.Nc3]

33.Rae1

[33.fxe5?? Rbg4+!! 34.Kh2 Rg2+ 35.Kh1 Rxf2+ 36.Kg1 Rg2+ 37.Kh1 Rxb3#]

33...e4

[33...exf4?! 34.Nxf4 Bf7 35.Ne6 Bxe6 36.Rxe6 ♣]

[33...Rh6 also wins. Win is trivial.]

34.Nc3 c6 35.dxe4 fxe4 36.Kh2

[36.Kg2 Rxf4 37.Nfd1 Rxf1 38.Kxf1 Rd4-+]

36...Rxf4 37.Ng4

[237.Nfd1 Rxf1 38.Rxf1-+]

37...Rxf1 38.Rxf1 Rc4 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: 'No need for more comments.' 39.Nxd5 cxd5

[39...Rxc2+ 40.Kg3 cxd5 41.Kf4-+]

40.Re1 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '?!'

[40.Rf7 Rxc2+ 41.Kg3 Bd6+ 42.Kh4-+]

40...Rxc2+ 41.Kg3

[41.Kh1 Kc7-+]

41...g5 42.h4 gxb4+

[42...Bd6+ 43.Kh3 gxb4 44.Kxb4-+]

43.Kxb4 Bf2+

[243...Kc7!? 44.Kg5-+]

44.Nxf2 Rxf2 45.Rd1 Ra2 46.Rd4

[46.Rxd5 Rxa4 47.Kg3 Kc7-+]

46...Kc7 47.Rxd5 Rxa4 48.Kg3 Kb6 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'ChessBase: 'White resigned.' 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch: '(Source: Tidskrift for Schack 1920, p.181, game 3521.)'

49.Kf4 Rb4-+ 0-1 (49) Olsson,A-Nimzowitsch,A Stockholm 1920 EXT 2013 [Fritz 5.00 (5s)]

2.Bc4 e5 3.Qf3 The mate on f7 can be easily defended. All that will remain is White's Kingside Knight deprived of its favourite f3 square and a potential ...Nd4 move looming. 3...Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.a3 Wasting even more time. 5...0-0

6.Qd1 White has officially wasted 3 tempi - Two moves on the Queen and one on the a-pawn. Additionally, Black is well-developed and hence ready to open the position. 6...d5

Preparing to develop the light-squared Bishop while opening the position. 6...d6? These are the sort of slow, non-combative moves that allow the opponent to catch up easily. 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.O-O Nd4 10.Nbd2 While Black is better, he does not have the necessary resources for a decisive attack. 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Nf3 Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.O-O Nd4 11.Nbd2 Nf4 With White's e-pawn and Black's d-pawn traded, Black has a few additional routes to White's King. For example, Nf6-d5-f4. 12.Kh2 Qf6 13.Ne4 White can likewise use the extra space created by the pawn trade for his own attack. However, Black is three tempi up and is in a better position to attack. 13...Qh6 14.Nxc5 Bxf3 15.gxf3 15.Bxf4 Qxf4+ 16.g3 Qf5 17.Qc1 17.Qd2 This puts the White King and Queen within forking distance. 17...Be2 The threats are ...Bxf1 and ...Nf3+ Bc6 Black has a strong light square attack incoming! 15...Qxh3+ 16.Kg1 Qg2# 7. Easy Exercises-Game

2.f4 e5 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 d6 5.Nc3 Nge7 6.Bd2 Ng6 7.f5 Nge7 8.Na4 Bb6 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.Be2 g6 11.fxg6 hxg6 12.Bg5 Bg4 13.c3 Rh5 14.h4 Qd7 15.Nh2 Bxe2 16.Qxe2 . (2) 16...f5? Black was concerned about the possibility of Ng4, so he prevents it, but 16...f5 is met strongly by 17 exf5!, as shown above. (1 point) Volker Schlepütz & John Emms: '(1)'

[Better options for Black include 16...Ng8 , covering the f6-square in case of Ng4;]
[or 16...Nd8 planning ...Ne6 and

intending to meet 17.Ng4 with Ng8 . (1 point)]

17.g4 Volker Schlepütz & John Emms: '?'

[Instead, 17.exf5! (2 points) wins a pawn and threatens to take the g-pawn removing the defender of the rook. --- Black cannot recapture the pawn without further consequences. For example:

A) Of course not 17...Qxf5? when 18.g4 forks the queen and rook. (1 point) (18.--);

B) 17...Nxf5 and now:

B1) 18.g4 is the obvious reply but then Black can play Rxg5! intending 19.hxg5? (White can still keep a small material advantage after 19.Qf2! Rh5 20.gxh5 gxh5) 19...Ng3! .;

B2) 18.Ng4! (2 points) is stronger. --- White threatens a family fork with Nf6+, and after 18...Qe6 (or 18...Ng3 19.Nf6+ Kf7 20.Qf3!) 19.Nf6+ Kf7 20.Nxh5 gxh5 21.Qxh5+ White wins the exchange and a pawn.]

17...Rh7 18.a3 b5 19.O-O-0 (*) 19...Na5 20.h5 f4 21.Rdf1 c5 22.Rfg1 Qc7 23.Kb1 b4 24.cxb4 cxb4 25.Rc1 Qb6 26.axb4 Nb3 27.Kc2 Nd4+ 0-1 --- You have scored ____ out of 7 points. --- Tactical Themes: Fork --- See the following game for the next exercise. 90: Black Chess Tactics Detection [Volker Schlepütz & John Emms] Volker Schlepütz & John Emms: '0-1 --- See the following game for Black solution.'

³ **2...Nf6** 3.d4 d5 4.e5 Nd7
[4...Ne4 5.f3 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bf5

7.Ne2 e6 8.Ng3 Bg6 9.Rb1 b6
 10.Bb5 Qd7 11.0-0 Be7 12.Qe2 a6
 13.Bd3 (13.Bxa6 Bxc2 14.Rb2 Ba4
 15.Nh5 The defense aims at an early...
 d5. The simplest refutation is 2. Nf3
 forcing 2.. ~..e5 if Blk is to have any
 kind of dec) 13...b5 14.Be3 Na5
 15.f4 Bxd3 16.cxd3 g6 17.Qd2 Nb7
 18.Ne2 a5 19.g4 h6 20.f5 gxf5
 21.gxf5 Rg8+ 22.Kh1 Bg5 23.Rg1
 exf5 24.Bxg5 hxg5 25.Rxg5 Rg6
 26.Rbg1 0-0-0 Black should have
 transposed into the Vienna game. Now
 White has a permanent pos ~-itonal
 27.Rxg6 fxd6 28.Rxg6 Qh7 29.Qh6
 Rh8 30.Qxh7 Rxh7 31.Nf4 Rh4
 32.Rg8+ Kd7 33.e6+ Kc6 34.Ra8
 Nd6 35.Ra6+ Kb7 36.Rxd6
 This B seems to have no future at all,
 which is typical of irregular defenses. I
 ~-ts development here leaves the Q-
 side Rxf4 (36...cxd6 37.Ng6)
 37.Rxd5 1-0 (37) Muir, W-Ridout, H
 CCCA 1945]

5.Nf3

[5.a4 Nb4 6.f4 Nb8 7.Be3 Bf5
 8.Rc1 e6]

[5.Nxd5 Ndb8]

[5.f4]

5...Nb6 6.h3 is better for White
 according to 'NCO'. Black would like
 to challenge with ...c7-c5, but this
 is difficult with Black's knight
 misplaced on c6.

2...d6 3.d4 looks like a kind of Pirc/
 Modern Defence. After 3...g6
 White can continue as against
 these openings with 4.Be3 Bg7

5.Qd2 .

2...e5 3.Bc4 transposes to the
 Bishops Opening (see Chapter 2).
 Here we will deal with attempts by
 Black to stay strictly in

Nimzowitsch territory.

[3.Nf3

A 3...g6 4.Bc4 Bg7 5.d3 d6
 6.Ng5 Nh6 7.Qf3 0-0 8.h3 Nd4
 9.Qd1 c6 10.Nf3 b5 11.Nxd4
 exd4 12.Bb3 dxc3 13.bxc3 Bxc3+
 14.Bd2 Bg7 15.Rb1 Kh8 16.0-0
 f5 17.f3 f4 18.c4 bxc4 19.Bxc4
 c5 20.Bd5 Bd4+ 21.Kh1 g5
 22.Bxa8 Be6 23.Qc1 Qxa8
 24.Bc3 Nf7 25.Bxd4+ cxd4
 26.Qc7 Qe8 27.Rb7 Rg8 28.Rfb1
 Kg7 29.Rxa7 Kg6 30.Rbb7 Rg7
 31.Qb6 Qf8 32.Qxd4 h6 33.Qc3
 Qe8 34.d4 d5 35.exd5 Bxd5
 36.Re7 Qd8 37.Ra6+ Kh7
 38.Qc2+ Kg8 39.Rea7 Qe8
 40.Rc7 Qe1+ 41.Kh2 Qg3+
 42.Kg1 Bxf3 43.Rc8+ Nd8
 44.Rxd8+ Kf7 45.Ra7+ Ke6
 46.Qb3+ Kf5 47.Rf7+ Kg6

48.Qe6+ Where should the king
 go? Kh5! This prevents any new
 checks by White. (48...Kh7??
 49.Qf5#) 49.Rxg7 Qxg2#
 0-1 (49) Lafelacionne -
 Kingscrusher 151-200;

B 3...Bb4 4.Nd5 Nf6 (4...Be7
 5.d4 d6 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.dxe5 dxe5
 8.h3 Bd7 9.Qe2 Fritz 5.00 (5s):
 'Rodriguez, A-Conquest, S/Yopal
 1997/0-1 (40)' Nf6 10.Bg5 0-0
 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.0-0-0 Be6
 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6
 15.Qe3 Rfb8 16.a3 Rb5 17.Qg5
 Rab8 18.b3 h6 19.Qxf6 gxf6
 20.Rd3 f5 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Rc3
 Bd7 23.Rd1 Be8 24.a4 Ra5
 25.Nd2 Rd5 26.Ne4 Rxd1+
 27.Kxd1 Rd8+ 28.Ke2 Kg7
 29.Rg3+ Kf8 30.Nf6 Ke7 31.Ng8+
 Ke6 32.Nxh6 f5 33.Rg7 Bd7
 34.Rg6+ Kd5 35.g4 f4 36.Rg8

Rxg8 37.Nxg8 Kd4 38.Nf6 Bc8
39.f3 Kc3 40.h4 1-0 Botvinnik,M-
Smyslov,V/Sverdlovsk 1943 (40))
5.c3 Be7

B1) 6.Bd3 d6 (6...0-0 7.Bc2
Re8 8.0-0 d6 9.h3 Be6
10.Nxe7+ Qxe7 11.d4 Bd7
12.Bg5 Rad8 13.Qd2 Kh8
14.Kh1 Rg8 15.Ng1 h6 16.Be3
Fritz 5.00 (5s): '1-0 Ivanov,A-
Rohde,M/Washington 1991 (52)'
Rde8 17.Rae1 g5 18.c4 b6
19.b4 Nh5 20.d5 Nd8 21.Qd1
Nf6 22.Bc1 Rg7 23.Ba4 Reg8
24.Bxd7 Nxd7 25.Ne2 g4
26.Ng3 gxh3 27.gxh3 Qh4
28.Qh5 Qxh5 29.Nxh5 Rg6
30.Ng3 f6 31.Nf5 Fritz 5.00
(5s): 'Karpov,A-Smyslov,V/
Tilburg 1979/1-0 (40)'
Re8
32.Rg1 Reg8 33.Nxh6 Rxg1+
34.Rxg1 Rxg1+ 35.Kxg1 Kg7
36.Kg2 Nf8 37.Kg3 Ng6
38.Kg4 Nf7 39.Nxf7 Kxf7
40.Be3 Ne7 41.c5

Wolf,H-Chigorin,M/Nurnberg
1906/1-0 (56)) 7.Bc2 Be6
8.Nxe7 Qxe7 9.0-0 0-0 10.d3
h6 11.Ne1 d5 12.exd5 Bxd5
13.Be3 Rad8 14.Qe2 Rfe8
15.Nf3 Qe6 16.Nd2 Qf5 17.f3
Qg6 18.Rae1 Nh5 19.Bb1 f5
20.Qd1 Nf4 21.Bxf4 exf4
22.Qa4 Qg5 23.Qb5 Re3
24.Qxb7 Qe7 25.Rxe3 fxe3
26.Ne4 fxe4 27.fxe4 e2 28.Re1
Qc5+ 0-1 Breyer,G-Teichmann,R/
Pistyan 1912 (28);

B2) 6.Nxf6+N Bxf6 7.Bc4 d6
8.h3 Qe7 9.d3 Nd8 10.Be3
Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'N' Bd7 11.Qd2
Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Keene: '?!' 0-0
12.0-0 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Keene: '?'

Be6 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '±' Fritz 5.00
(5s): 'Keene: '!' 13.Nh2 Bxc4
14.dxc4 Qe6 15.Qd5 Qxd5±
Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'The backward
pawn on e3 becomes a target'
(15...c6 16.Qd3=) 16.cxd5 Be7
17.c4 a5 18.b3 b6 19.a3
Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'The passed pawn
on d4 quickly leads to threats'
Nb7 20.b4 Ra7 21.Bd2 g6
22.Rfb1 f5 23.exf5 gxf5 24.Nf1
Kf7 25.Ng3 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '⚡'
Kg6 26.Ne2 Rfa8 27.Bc3 Bf6
28.Kf1 h5 29.Ke1 h4 30.Kd2
Fritz 5.00 (5s): '-+??' f4 31.Kc2
Kf5 32.Bb2 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '?'
Rg8 33.g4+ hxg3 34.fxg3 Bg5
35.gxf4 Bxf4 Fritz 5.00 (5s):
'Threatening mate... how?'
(≤35...exf4 36.Rg1 axb4
37.Nd4+ Kg6 38.h4+-) 36.Rg1
Raa8 37.Raf1 Rxg1 Fritz 5.00
(5 s) : ' ! ? ' 38.Rxg1 Bh6±
(38...Rh8!?=) 39.Ng3+
Fritz 5.00 (5s): '-+' Kf6 40.Ne4+
Kf7 41.Rf1+ Fritz 5.00 (5s): '-+'
Ke7 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '-+' 42.Bc3
Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♠ -+' Rh8
43.Kb3= (43.h4 Rh7±) 43...Be3
44.Rf3 Bc1 45.Be1 axb4
Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♠ ' 46.axb4
Fritz 5.00 (5s): '??' Bf4 47.Bc3
Rh4 48.Be1= Fritz 5.00 (5s): '≤'
(48.Kc2 Kf7±) 48...Rh8 49.Kc2
Kd7 (49...Kf7 50.Ng5+ Kg6
51.Ne6±) 50.Ra3 Nd8 51.h4
Kc8 52.Nc3 (52.Bf2 Kb8±)
52...Kb8 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '-+'
(52...Rg8 53.Kd3± Fritz 5.00
(5s): '=') 53.Kd3 Fritz 5.00 (5s):
'♠♠' Rg8 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '≤'
54.Ra2 Rg1 55.Bf2 Fritz 5.00
(5s): ' ± ' Rh1 56.Ne4

White prepares c5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '=' Nf7 57.c5= (57.Ra4!?± Fritz 5.00 (5s): '!') 57...bxc5 58.bxc5 dxc5 59.Nxc5 Rd1+ 60.Ke4 Nd6+ 61.Kf3 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♣ ' Rxd5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '? ' 62.Rb2+ Fritz 5.00 (5s): '+ - ' Kc8 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♠ ' 63.Ra2 Do you see the mate threat? ½ - ½ (6 3) Asztalos, L - Nimzowitsch, A Kecskemet 1927 HCL [Fritz 5.00 (5s)]]

[28.Bb6 , it is true, would be better in order to prevent ...Qc7, but after b4 29.cxb4 Qxb4 30.Kg1 Black would play h6 followed by 31.-- Kh7 with a reasonably good game.]

28...Qc7 29.Re1 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Attacking the backward pawn on e6' 29...Qxe5

[29...Bc8 30.Qxc7 Rxc7 31.g3±] 30.Bxe5 Rf7 31.g3 fxg3+ 32.hxg3 Rf8 33.Rb1 Rc8 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, Aron: ' (the possession of the central point at e5 is of little account in this position)" 34.Rb4 g5 35.Ke3 Kf7 36.g4 Kg6 37.Rb1 h5 ½-½ (37) Maroczy, G-Nimzowitsch, A Carlsbad it 1923 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, Aron: 'Draw.'

⁵ Black selects our preventive formation. Better would be 5...Nge7 Schluricke, Reinhard: ' ♠ ' 6.Nf4 Ng6 7.Nh5 Rg8 and Black will eventually castle Queenside. Nimzowitsch: 'Δ ...Be7 and later ...0-0-0.' Schluricke, Reinhard: 'Δ ...0-0-0' 5...f6 6.a3 Ba5 7.b4=

⁶ Correct would be 7...Nge7 or even 7...Bf8 7...Nh6 8.Be2± 8.bxc3 Na5 9.Bd3 Ne7 10.Nh3 c5 Schluricke, Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '±'

[10...Nc4 11.Bxc4 dxc4 12.Qf3±] 11.Bg5 Schluricke, Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '='

[11.dxc5!? Qc7 12.f4±] 11...c4 12.Be2 Nac6 13.Bf6 (White should now win with little trouble. Compare Steiner's game in the preliminary note.) Schluricke,

⁴ 4.Be3 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'last book move' 4...Nge7 5.Qg4 0-0 6.Qh4 f5 7.f3

[7.Nf3 fxe4 8.Qxe4 d5=] 7...d5 8.e5 Na5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '±' [8...f4 9.Bxf4 Nxd4 10.0-0-0 Bxc3 11.bxc3=]

9.a3 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Qe8 11.Nh3 Nc4 12.Bg5 Ng6 13.Qf2 Qc6 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '=' 14.Bxc4 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '♣'

[14.Bd3 b5=] 14...Qxc4 15.Qd2 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '♣' '♣' 15...b6 16.Nf4 Nxf4 17.Bxf4 c5 18.Be3 cxd4 19.Bxd4 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '♣'

[19.cxd4 Ba6♣] 19...f4 20.Kf2 Ba6 21.a4 Rf5 22.Rhb1 Raf8 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '='

[22...Rc8 23.a5 bxa5 24.Rxa5±] 23.a5 b5 24.Bxa7 Rxe5 25.Re1

Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, Aron: '(White now seeks to capture the dark squares in the center)''

25...Rxe1 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Threatening mate: Qf1' 26.Qxe1

[≤26.Kxe1 Rc8♣] 26...Re8 27.Qe5 Fritz 5.00 (5s):

'Nimzowitsch, Aron: '(he has apparently achieved his object)''

27...Re7 28.Bd4

Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s):
'Nimzowitsch, A.: '+-' Fritz 5.00
(5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '+-' '+-'
Nimzowitsch: ' ±' 13...Rg8 14.0-0
(Not a strong continuation.)
Schluricke,Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00
(5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '?!' Fritz 5.
00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '?!' '?!'

[Correct would be 14.Ng5
with Nimzowitsch: 'Δ f3, g4'
Nimzowitsch: 'Δ g4. After 15...hxc4 16.
Bxc4, a decision would be reached by
h4-5.' -- 15.f3 -- 16.g4]

[or else 14.Ng5 with 14...-- 15.g4
After hxc4 16.Bxc4 , a decision
would be reached by Schluricke,
Reinhard: 'Δ h4-h5' -- 17.h4 --
18.h5]

14...Qa5 (The slender counterchance.)
15.Qd2 Nf5 16.Rfd1

[A more economical way of using the
Rooks was available in 16.Rad1
. The a-pawn of course would be
taboo. Schluricke,Reinhard: '♣']

16...Kd7 (A weighty decision: the King
abandons the f-pawn to its fate.
And yet this line appears to be
justified, being in keeping with the
stratagem shown in Games Nos. 29
and 30, "the King's flight as a
palliative measure.") Schluricke,
Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '±'

[16...b6 17.Nf4±]

17.Ng5 Rf8

[It is open to question whether the
straightforward 17...Kc7 is not more
in the spirit of the said strategem. It is
not a question of the f-pawn being
exchanged, but rather of preventing
White, after Nxf7, from using f7 as a
base for further attacks. The
continued flight of the King would
have opposed White's plans in this

direction, e.g. Schluricke,Reinhard: '!?'
18.Nxf7 Bd7 19.f3 Raf8 20.Ng5
and now either Ng7 Nimzowitsch: 'Δ ...
Ne8' (or 20...Kb8 with a waiting
policy, and it is doubtful whether White
can win. Schluricke,Reinhard: "The
King's flight as a palliative measure.")
with 21.-- Ne8]

18.h3 (The wrong method.) Schluricke,
Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s):
'Nimzowitsch, A.: '?!' Fritz 5.00
(5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '?!' '?!'

[He should have played 18.f3]

18...Kc7 19.g4 Schluricke,Reinhard:
'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '='

[19.Nf3!?±]

19...hxc4 20.hxc4 Nfe7 21.Kg2 Ng8
(A bad mistake, but White fails to
take advantage of it.) Schluricke,
Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s):
'Nimzowitsch, A.: '?' Fritz 5.00
(5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '?' '?!'
Nimzowitsch: '?'

[With 21...Bd7 22.Rh1 Schluricke,
Reinhard: '=' Rae8 23.Nh7 (23.Rh7
Nd8 and "Black could curl up like a
hedgehog.") 23...Nd8 , Black could
curl up like a hedgehog.]

22.Bg7 Re8 23.Rh1

[Here 23.Nxf7 would capture not only
the pawn, but also the crucial point d6.
If Re7 24.Nd6 Bd7 (24...Rxc7
25.Ne8+ Kd8 26.Nxc7 Qc7
27.Qg5+) 25.Bh6 and White has a
good game.]

23...Bd7 24.Rh3

[≤24.Nxf7 Re7 25.Nd6 Rxc7+]

24...Nd8 25.Rf3 Rc8 26.Rh1
(An unjustified sacrifice of a pawn,
for it soon becomes clear that the
intended doubling of Rooks means
only beating the air.) Schluricke,
Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '=' Fritz 5.

00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '?' Fritz 5.

00 (5s): '=' Fritz 5.00 (5s):
'Nimzowitsch, A.: '?' '?'

[If 26.Nxf7 then Schluricke,Reinhard:
'Nimzowitsch, A.: '!' Nimzowitsch, A.:
'!' '!' '!' Nxf7 (26...Re7 27.Nxd8
Rxd8±) 27.Rxf7 Re7 28.Rxe7 Nxe7]

[If 26.Qc1 on the other hand, the
continuation would be: Kb8 27.Qb2
Rc6 28.Qb4 Nimzowitsch: ' ∞' Qc7
29.Bf8 Rb6 30.Bd6 From this
exposition arise two points. Firstly,
the soundness of the prophylactic
method 26.Qc1, 27.Qb2. Secondly,
the affinity between White's minor
pieces and the point d6. Without any
regard for man's sometimes dizzy
plans, the pieces develop a logic of
their own, which frequently, as here,
is full of beauty as well as convincing.

Schluricke,Reinhard: '+-']

26...Qxa2 (Considering the slenderness
of his counterattack, Black can be
well satisfied with this result.)

27.Rh7 Kb8 28.Nxf7 Nxf7 29.Rxf7 Bc6
(Now the doubled Rooks are
actually out of play.) Schluricke,
Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s):
'Nimzowitsch, A.: '["Now the
doubled Rooks are actually out of
play."]' 30.Bf6 a5 Schluricke,
Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '±'

[To be preferred was 30...Qb2
in order to anticipate the preventive
move Schluricke,Reinhard: ' ∆'
Nimzowitsch: ' ∆' Nimzowitsch:
'covering c1' 31.Qc1 . But White has
no thoughts of preventive
maneuvers.]

[∆30...Rf8!?=]

31.Rh1 Schluricke,Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00
(5s): '='

[∆31.Bg5!?!±]

[31.Qc1]

31...Qb2 Schluricke,Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00
(5s): '±'

[31...Rf8 32.Rxf8 Rxf8 33.Bg7=]

32.Bg5 Rf8 Schluricke,Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.
00 (5s): '±'

[32...a4 33.Rg7=]

33.Rfh7 Rc7 34.Rxc7

[34.R7h3 Rcf7]

34...Kxc7 35.Qc1 (If White did not shine
while playing for a win, he certainly
makes the most of the few chances
he has of drawing the game. The
ensuing attempts to save the
situation are of a high order - one
is forcibly reminded of Schlechter.

[35.Rh7+ Kc8=]

35...Qxc3 36.Qa1 Qxa1 37.Rxa1
Schluricke,Reinhard: 'JvR: 'Black
has to fight the consolidation of the
queenside. He has an extra pawn.
If the pawns break through, the win
becomes simple." 37...Ra8 38.Bd2

b6 39.Kg3 (The King threatens to
advance to g5.) Nimzowitsch: 'Δ Kf4,
Kg5' Schluricke,Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.
00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '[Δ ♔h4-
g5]' 39...Ne7 40.Bd1 Schluricke,
Reinhard: 'JvR: '!' '!' JvR: 'Kmoch
builds the fortress in a smart way."

40...Bd7 (Black has a slight chance to
win this position only by playing ...
Bb7.) Schluricke,Reinhard: 'JvR: '?'
'?' JvR: 'Nimzowitsch allows a
strengthening."

[J v R : ' C o r r e c t i s ' ∆40...Bb7±
JvR: '!' '!' Nimzowitsch: '!' 41.f4 Nc6
42.c3 b5]

41.Bb4 Schluricke,Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00
(5s): '-+' JvR: '!' '!']

[41.c3 Rg8±]

41...Nc6 42.Bd6+ Kb7 43.c3 b5
Schluricke,Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00

(5s): '♠'
 [43...Na7 44.f3-+]
 44.Rb1 b4 45.Ba4 Schluricke,Reinhard:
 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '-+' JvR: 'White has
 stopped the advance.'
 [Not 45.cxb4 Schluricke,Reinhard:
 '♠ !?' Schluricke,Reinhard:
 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '?' Nimzowitsch, A.:
 '?' '?' axb4 46.Bxb4 Nxd4 47.Bc5+
 etc. (47.Kf4♠) 47...Nb5
 Nimzowitsch: '♠']
 45...b3 (This looks good, but it allows a
 deadlock to be reached.)
 [45...Nxd4 Schluricke,Reinhard: '!'?
 46.Bxd7 Ne2+ 47.Kf3 Nxc3 48.Bxe6
 Kc6 etc. Schluricke,Reinhard: '♠']
 46.Bxc6+
 [♠46.Rh1-+]
 46...Kxc6 47.g5 (Bars the Black Bishop
 from coming out at g6.) Schluricke,
 Reinhard: 'JvR: '!' '!' JvR: 'The black
 bishop is restricted.' Nimzowitsch:
 '!' Nimzowitsch: 'Stops ...g5 and the
 emergence of the Bishop at g6.'
 [47.Rh1 Kb5-+]
 47...Ra7 48.Rb2
 [♠48.Ba3= ♠ Brinckmann/
 Nimzowitsch ♠ Brinckmann/
 Nimzowitsch]
 48...Rb7 49.Kf4 (Now Black has a
 breakthrough reminiscent of a study.
) Schluricke,Reinhard: 'JvR: '?' '?'
 JvR: 'White allows a combination.'
 [49.Ba3 would have drawn.
 Schluricke,Reinhard: '=' Schluricke,
 Reinhard: 'JvR: '!' '!' JvR:
 'Nimzowitsch regards the position as
 drawn. See' Bc8 50.f4! Rh7 51.Kg2
 Rh4 52.Rf2]
 49...Bc8 Schluricke,Reinhard: 'JvR:
 'Black threatens ..Rh7.' 50.Kg3
 Rb4! (The winning move.) Schluricke,
 Reinhard: 'Δ 51...♠ a4 Fritz 5.00

(5s): ' ± ??' Fritz 5.00 (5s):
 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '!' JvR: '!' '!' JvR:
 'The end of the blockade on b2 is
 worth a rook.' Δ 51... ♠ a4'
 Schluricke,Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00
 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '[Δ 51...
 ♠a4]''
 [♠50...Rf7-+]
 51.cxb4 (Compulsory, or else Ra4, etc.)
 Schluricke,Reinhard: ' ♠' Schluricke,
 Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s):
 'Nimzowitsch, A.: ' ♠ " JvR:
 'Otherwise Black plays ..Ra4.'
 Nimzowitsch: '♠'
 [51.Bxb4 axb4 52.cxb4 Kb5-+]
 51...a4 52.b5+ Schluricke,Reinhard:
 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '♠'
 [♠52.Rb1±]
 52...Kxb5 53.Ba3 c3 54.Rb1
 [♠54.Re2 Comp Houdini1.5a Kc4
 55.f4 Kxd4 56.f5 Kd3 57.fxg6 Kxe2
 58.g7 b2 59.g8Q b1Q 60.Qxc8
 Qd3+♠ /-+]
 54...Kc4 (As White's Rook and Bishop
 are immobilized - otherwise b2 with
 Kb3 is immediately decisive - the
 Black King can at liesure feast upon
 the d-pawn and return to c4. This is
 the deciding factor.) Schluricke,
 Reinhard: '!' Schluricke,Reinhard:
 'JvR: 'The bastion is taken.' 55.f4
 Schluricke,Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00
 (5s): '-+'
 [55.Kf4 Kxd4 56.Rd1+ Kc4
 57.Ke3-+]
 [55.Bc5 b2 56.-- ΔKb3-+]
 55...Kxd4 56.Kf2 Schluricke,Reinhard:
 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '-+'
 [56.Kf3 Kd3-+]
 56...Kc4
 [56...Ke4 57.Bc1-+]
 57.Ke1 d4 58.Ke2 Kd5 59.Kf3
 [If 59.Kd3 then Black plays Ba6#]

59...Bb7 60.Re1
 [60.Rd1 Ba6+-]
 60...Kc4+ 61.Kf2 b2 **Schluricke, Reinhard: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '!' 62.f5 exf5**
 [62...gxf5 63.g6 d3 64.Bxb2 cxb2 65.g7+-]
 63.e6 Bc6 **White resigns. 0-1 (63) Kmoch,H-Nimzowitsch,A Game No. 50 1927 [Nimzowitsch,Aron] Schluricke,Reinhard: 'JvR: 'A highly interesting endgame!' 64.e7 Kb3+- 0-1 (64) Kmoch,H-Nimzowitsch,A Bad Niendorf 1927 EXT 2015 [Schluricke,Reinhard]**

⁷ **8.0-0** Ng6 9.Be3 Qe7 10.Re1 Bd7 11.Qc1 b6 12.Nd2 e5 13.Bd3 Qf6 14.Nb3 h6 15.a4 a5 16.Bb5 Rae8 17.f3 Nb8 18.Bf1 Bc6 19.c4 $\bar{f}$
 [19.d5 Bd7=]
 19...exd4 20.Nxd4 Bb7 21.Nb5 Na6 22.Bd4 Qd8 23.Qd2 Nb4 24.Bc3 Na6 25.Bd4 Bc6 26.Rad1 Re7 27.Qf2
White gets the initiative 27...Rfe8
 28.Qg3 Re6=
 [28...Nc5 29.e5 $\bar{f}$]
 29.Kh1 $\bar{f}$
 [29.c5!? Nxc5 30.Bc4=]
 29...Qe7 30.Bf2 Nb4 $\pm$
 [$\triangle$ 30...Re5!? $\bar{f}$]
 31.c3 Na6 32.Nd4 Bxa4 33.Ra1 Bd7 34.Nxe6 Qxe6 35.c5 Nxc5 36.Bxc5 bxc5 $\pm$
 [36...dxc5 37.Qxc7 Rc8 $\pm$]
 37.Rxa5 Qf6 38.Rc1 h5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (38)
Maroczy,G-Nimzowitsch,A San Remo 1930 [Fritz 5.00 (5s)]

⁸ **3...d5** should be answered by 4.Bb5 .

⁹ **4.Bb5** Bxc3 5.bxc3 Nge7 6.d3

0-0 7.0-0 Na5 8.Be3 a6 9.Ba4 b5 10.Bb3 Nxb3 11.axb3 Bb7 12.Ng5 f5 13.f3 h6 14.Nh3 d5 15.e5 g5 16.d4 f4 17.Bc1 Nf5 18.Qe1 a5 19.Nf2 a4 20.Nd3 axb3 21.Rxa8 Qxa8 22.cxb3 Qa2 23.Nc5 Bc8 24.Rf2 Qa1 25.b4 Ne3 26.Re2 Nc4 27.Kf2 Kf7 28.Rc2 Ba6 29.Bd2 Qxe1+ 30.Kxe1 Ra8 31.Ra2 Bb7 32.Rxa8 Bxa8 33.Na6 c6 34.Nc5 Nb6 35.h4 Na4 36.hxg5 hxg5 37.Kf2 Nxc5 38.bxc5 Kg6 39.g3 Kf5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (39) **Mueller,F-Nimzowitsch,A USA, Cincinnati. Simul-2 1927 (Source: Cincinnati Time-Star, 30th April 1927, page 33.)**

¹⁰ **4...d5** 5.e5 d4 6.c3! is good for **White** after either 6...dxc3 [or 6...Bc5 7.b4 Bb6 8.b5] 7.bxc3 Ba5 .

¹¹ **8.Bd3** e5 9.0-0 Re8 10.h3 , **A.Ledger-Miles, British Championship 1998.** I like White's position. His pieces are set up as in the Ruy Lopez, but Black has lost time with his dark-squared bishop and hasn't got the usual Lopez counterplay on the queenside. **Other Black Defences-Nc6,A**

¹² **2...f5** This is the Colorado Countergambit which reminds of me o f t h e B a l o g h
 CC StartFEN CC rnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1CC EndFEN CC 1.e4 d6 2.d4 f5? . This is horrendous, but it's an opening that has plenty of games in the database! The Colorado Gambit. It's completely incorrect and therefore hard to say why some

titled players have tried it. If you know the line shown here you are close to winning. The Colorado Gambit. It's incorrect, but it definitely has some trick and trolling potential. White has more than one way to obtain a large advantage, though. The main question is what is the most economical way to deal with it. You'll rarely face it, so a practical weapon is called for. I suggested the best line by engine standards in the first edition, but it is quite long and complicated. For the second edition, I switch to a more practical approach, which still is much better for White. is the so-called Colorado Gambit. It severely weakens Black's position but refuting it requires some precision. 3.exf5 d5 Black wants to get the pawn back. Instead, we are not worried about that and focus on controlling the key central squares. Black has managed to compromise the position in three moves. 4.d4 The key to refuting this Gambit is to not hold onto the pawn, but rather exploit the weaknesses left behind by 2...f5, namely the e5 square. White takes a stake in the center and will play Bb5 on the next turn.

[4.Bb5 Black has a massive hole on e5. Bxf5 5.Ne5 The most accurate. Black has tons of weaknesses that White is eager to exploit. Qd6 This is how they play, but it's really getting from bad to worse. 6.d4 All of White's moves are simple. Nf6 7.O-O Nd7 8.Bf4 Black couldn't get rid of our complete bind on the e5-square and is pretty much lost at this point.

15) Black's Early Alternative-1...Nc6 with 2...f5 All very natural. We develop quickly and occupy the weak spots. The only tricky part is about to come. White is much better, maybe even winning already. Ndx e5 9.Bxe5 Qg6 10.Qf3 This is the move to remember ! It is given by Stockfish with a winning advantage. It is not that simple to prove, but White is close to landing a quick Knockout. Amongst others White is intending to play c2-c4 next - d5 and c7 are also hanging, by the way. There is no good move anymore, for Black. Be4 11.Qh3 e6 12.Nd2 Bxc2 13.Qc3 And Black is busted. 11. Alekhines and Rare Lines-Alekhines Rare Lines]

4...Bxf5 Restores material equality but Black is still in big trouble after 5.Bb5 Fighting for the e5-square, which is a permanent outpost for us now. I think this move is a bit more practical than my previous suggestion of 5.Ne5 , which is stronger if you rely on engine evaluation only. I'll still mention the key lines because maybe you are a perfectionist and want to see them. After 5...Qd6 6.d4 Nf6 7.O-O Nd7 8.Bf4 Ndx e5 9.Bxe5 Qg6 a critical position is reached. Now 10. Qf3 and CC StartFEN CC r3kb1r/ppp1p1pp/2n3q1/1B1pBb2/3P4/8/PPP2PPP/RN1Q1RK1 w kq - 1 10CC EndFEN CC 10.c4 lead to a large advantage, but it's still quite murky. White is ready to undermine Black's c6 knight with Ne5, which is a phenomenal outpost for our knight. 5...e6 Black usually plays this move to enable a development

based on ...Bd6 and ...Nge7, which lends more cover to e5 and c6. After 5...Nf6 we can simply develop with 6.O-O, when 6...e6?! 7.Ne5 shows the problem: how does Black cover c6? We have many weaknesses to play against in the long run `CCStartBracket CGe5-s q u a r e , e 6 - pawn CC EndBracket CC . 6.Ne5`

Nge7 Black could also play 6...Qd6, but it's much worse compared to `CCStartFEN CCr2qkbnr/ppp1p1pp/2n5/1B1p1b2/8/5N2/PPPP1PPP/RNBQK2R w KQkq - 0 5CCEndFEN CC 5.Ne5 Qd6`, as the e6-pawn obstructs the queen on the sixth rank. We are much better with many replies, but I suggest `CC StartFEN CC r3kbnr/ppp3pp/2nqp3/1B1pNb2/3P4/8/PPP2PPP/RNBQK2R w KQkq - 2 7CCEndFEN CC 7.Nc3`, intending Bf4 next. The immediate `CC StartFEN CC r3kbnr/ppp3pp/2nqp3/1B1pNb2/3P4/8/PPP2PPP/RNBQK2R w KQkq - 2 7CCEndFEN CC 7.Bf4` Qb4+ is unnecessarily complicated. 7.Nc3 It's not easy for Black to unpin here. A simple development move on the surface. It sets a cunning trap, though. What about 7...a6 now? is simple and effective, continuing development. Next up is Bf4. 7. Bg5 is another good option and White's most common move. 7... Qd6 8.c3 is most common but not very accurate. After 8.c4! is required to get an advantage but I see no need to enter the complications after 8...dxc4 9.Nc3 Bd3+= This is the reason I prefer 7.

Nc3. 8...a6 Black has decent chances. 7...a6 breaking the pin is necessary. 7...Qd6? is strongly met by 8.Bf4+- with all sorts of threats like g4 and Ng6. Black is busted. 8.Ba4 We keep the pin and hope for 8...b5?, falling into the trap I mentioned. 8...b5 This fails, but it is a very tempting move. Black can play something else, but I don't see how they untangle their position. We'll castle kingside and play Bg5 to pin the other knight, too.

[8...Rb8 This preparatory move is required to play ...b5. The immediate 8...b5? loses to 9.Nxb5! axb5 10. Bxb5 Qd6 11.c3 g6 11...Ra6 12. Bf4! Rb6 13.Qa4+- is lights out. 12. Bg5+- when Black can hardly move not to mention White is threatening to win material with g4. 9.Bg5 Qd6 10.f4 Cements the knight on e5. We are ready to roll Black over with g2-g4. b5 11.Bb3 h6 12.Bxe7 Nxe7 The alternative recapture 12...Bxe7 runs into 13.Qh5+± 13.g4 Bh7 14.Qe2 gives White an overwhelming position. f5 is a big threat not to mention Black can hardly complete development. 8. Bonus: 1...Nc6-2... f5 Colorado Gambit]

9.Nxb5 Black cannot evacuate us so easily. This knight sacrifice is crushing. 9...axb5 10.Bxb5 'Pin And Win'... couldn't resist this one here! 10...Qd6 Black covers the knight and threatens ...Qb4+ now. 11.c3 Not the only win, but it's very telling that a slow move is enough. Black is completely busted now, as they can't move any minor piece. We have Bf4 or Bg5 ideas and `CC StartFEN CC r3kb1r/`

2p1n1pp/2nqp3/1B1pNb2/3P4/2P5/PP3PPP/R1BQK2R b KQkq - 0
 11.CC EndFEN CC 11...Ra5 12.
 Qe2 Rxb5 13.Qxb5 does not help.
 11...Ra5 12.Qe2 We have a piece less,
 but we maintain pressure, have a
 huge queenside majority, and
 Black's Kingside cannot untangle.
 37) Rare 1st moves-Rare 1st
 Moves: 1...Nc6 #6

13 **4.c3** d5

14 **5.h3** White takes control over the
 g4-square. 5...Nf6 6.Bb5

[6.Bg5 0-0 7.Qd2

A) 7...d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Bh6
 (9.0-0-0 Nxc3 10.Qxc3 Qd6
 11.Bc4 Bf5 12.Rhe1 Rad8
 13.Qe3 Na5 14.Bd3 Be6)
 9...Nxc3 (9...Be6) 10.Bxg7 Kxg7
 11.Qxc3 Qd5 12.0-0-0 Be6 13.b3
 Bf5;

B) 7...a6 8.0-0-0 b5 (8...d5) 9.a3
 (9.Bd3 Bb7 10.Kb1 Re8 11.Rhe1
 e5 12.d5 Ne7) 9...Rb8 10.Bh6 b4
 11.axb4 Nxb4 12.Bxg7 Kxg7
 13.e5 Nfd5;

C) 7...--]

[6.Be2 0-0 7.0-0 (7.Be3) 7...e5
 (7...a6)

A) 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5
 10.Bg5 c6 11.Bc4 b5;

B) 8.Be3 exd4 9.Nxd4 Re8
 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bf3;

C) 8.d5 Ne7 9.Be3 c6 10.dxc6
 bxc6 11.Qd2 Qc7 12.Rad1 d5
 13.exd5 Nexd5 14.Nxd5 cxd5
 (14...--);

D) 8.--]

[6.Bc4

A) 6...Nxe4 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Nxe4
 d5 9.Nc5 Qd6 10.Nd3

A1) 10...Nxd4 11.Bf4 Nxf3+
 12.Qxf3 Qe6+ 13.Be5+ Kg8
 14.Qg3 Bxe5 15.Nxe5 Qa6;

A2) 10...Rf8 11.c3 (11.Bf4
 Qe6+ 12.Be5 Kg8 13.c3 Nxe5
 14.Ndx5 Qd6) 11...Kg8 12.0-0
 h6 13.Re1 g5;

A3) 10...--;

B) 6...0-0]

6...0-0 7.0-0 a6 8.Bxc6 bxc6
 Black gets the bishop pair
 advantage in exchange for the
 doubled pawns. 9.Be3

[9.Re1 And I prefer White here.
 Black's pawn structure is not great
 and the Bishop pair is not effective at
 the moment. White would like to trade
 the g7 Bishop here, so Bf4/Qd2 is a
 natural follow up. Rb8 10.b3 c5
 I have easily gotten in this thematic
 break, which means I am fine
 theoretically, but I am still the one
 who needs to be more careful over the
 next several moves.

I have easily gotten in this thematic
 break, which means I am fine
 theoretically, but I am still the one
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 next several moves. 11.e5 Nd7
 12.exd6 This is no good, according to
 the computer. After all, it can hardly
 make sense to trade the e5-pawn for
 the c7-pawn unless there is some
 concrete way to take advantage of
 the situation. On the other hand,
 White's series of moves forces me to
 think hard about his many possible
 threats. When I described this game
 to my wife (who is not a chessplayer),
 she decided that what my opponent
 was doing to me was similar to a
 baseball team who tries to fatigue the
 opposing pitcher by getting his pitch

count up. This is an excellent analogy. This is no good, according to the computer. After all, it can hardly make sense to trade the e5-pawn for the c7-pawn unless there is some concrete way to take advantage of the situation. On the other hand, White's series of moves forces me to think hard about his many possible threats. When I described this game to my wife (who is not a chessplayer), she decided that what my opponent was doing to me was similar to a baseball team who tries to fatigue the opposing pitcher by getting his pitch count up. This is an excellent analogy. cxd6 13.Bg5 Re8 14.Nd5 f6 In inducing this "weakness", White is not repaid adequately for the effort it took him to accomplish it. At least, he is not repaid with a good position, but he is repaid with the effort it takes for me to have to evaluate counterintuitive moves like 14...f6 correctly.

In inducing this "weakness", White is not repaid adequately for the effort it took him to accomplish it. At least, he is not repaid with a good position, but he is repaid with the effort it takes for me to have to evaluate counterintuitive moves like 14...f6 correctly. 15.Be3 e6?! (Better to develop with tempo with 15...Bb7, when Black has the advantage. At the time I was not willing to weaken the e6-square, although, when Black has the advantage. At the time I was not willing to weaken the e6-square, although 16.Nf4 (!) e5 is excellent for Black.) 16.dxc5 Nxc5 17.Nc3 Bb7 18.Bxc5 dxc5 19.Qe2 Qc7 20.Rad1 c4 21.Ne4 Bd5 At this point

in the game, it certainly appears that White's strategy of nettlesomeness has failed. His aggressive play in the centre has ultimately led to his centre disappearing. Also, Black's bishops have much more potential than White's knights. It is Black who has played more accurately so far in the complications, and it is even White who now commits an awful blunder. This doesn't tell the whole story, though, because Black's (my) "pitch count" is very high, and it is getting harder and harder to keep finding the right moves.

At this point in the game, it certainly appears that White's strategy of nettlesomeness has failed. His aggressive play in the centre has ultimately led to his centre disappearing. Also, Black's bishops have much more potential than White's knights. It is Black who has played more accurately so far in the complications, and it is even White who now commits an awful blunder. This doesn't tell the whole story, though, because Black's (my) "pitch count" is very high, and it is getting harder and harder to keep finding the right moves. 22.Nc3?? cxb3 23.Nxd5 exd5 24.Qxe8+ Hoping that the material imbalance will pose challenges for Black. This is desperate, but is nonetheless the correct choice. White also starts allowing his displeasure with his position to show. I will mention that White has been a frequent poker player in his spare time.

Hoping that the material imbalance will pose challenges for Black. This is desperate, but is nonetheless the

correct choice. White also starts allowing his displeasure with his position to show. I will mention that White has been a frequent poker player in his spare time. Rxe8 25.Rxe8+ Kf7 26.Re2 Qc4 27.Red2

A) even if 27...b2 28.Rb1 (or 28.a3 Qa2) 28...Qxa2 29.Rdd1 a5 30.Nd4 a4 31.Nb5 a3 is even easier.

It is around here that White stops projecting "a little discouraged" and goes into full-blown misery mode. He is leaning back instead of forward, sighing heavily, and looking down and away from the board. The reason: he has noticed a trap that I could fall into! It will require that, when I reach the critical position, I do not double-check my analysis, but this seems possible to him because it is late and we are both low on time. In any case, it is his only chance, so he takes it. Of the two of us, he is not the only experienced poker player, so I would not normally have missed the significance of his sudden attitude change, but I am fatigued from my day and from the game. is even easier. --- It is around here that White stops projecting "a little discouraged" and goes into full-blown misery mode. He is leaning back instead of forward, sighing heavily, and looking down and away from the board. The reason: he has noticed a trap that I could fall into! It will require that, when I reach the critical position, I do not double-check my analysis, but this seems possible to him because it is late

and we are both low on time. In any case, it is his only chance, so he takes it. Of the two of us, he is not the only experienced poker player, so I would not normally have missed the significance of his sudden attitude change, but I am fatigued from my day and from the game.;

B) 27...bxa2 This should win easily; This should win easily; 28.c3 f5 29.Ra1 Bxc3 30.Raxa2 Bxd2?? 31.Ne5+ . Oops. I resigned shortly as there turns out to be no counterplay in the resulting endgame. Any move that did not drop the queen would have won easily, as White's whole army would be engaged in a futile effort to stop Black's passed pawns. . Oops. I resigned shortly as there turns out to be no counterplay in the resulting endgame. Any move that did not drop the queen would have won easily, as White's whole army would be engaged in a futile effort to stop Black's passed pawns. Anonymous-Schuyler, J A place, A year Opponent is Overrated [James Schuyler] (31.-- I do not think it is a coincidence that the example games are against a child and a friend. These players have a natural advantage when it comes to using the ploy I have been discussing. But is it kosher? --- There is an argument to be made that, in a game, anything legal is ethical. That is basically the argument I put forth in Chapter Eleven when it comes to using the clock against the opponent, but I'm not sure that reasoning applies

here, when the actions in question are off the "playing field". Furthermore, it is not clear that play-acting is even legal. According to FIDE rule 11.5 "It is forbidden to distract or annoy the opponent in any manner whatsoever." A vague rule to be sure, and difficult to enforce, but I consider it, at the very least, an ethical guidepost. Your opponent will never be able to prove that you are acting, let alone that you are doing it in order to influence him, but surely you know what you are doing and why. --- A special note to my two opponents - no hard feelings. I take responsibility for my own mistakes. As for you, dear reader, do what you like, but watch out for your opponents. Let us please move on to something else.)]

9...Rb8 Black activates his rook along the b-file. 10.Rb1 10.b3 weakens the long diagonal.

[10.b3 Bb7]

10...Bb7 Black wants to attack the e4-pawn. 11.Qd2 White wants to trade dark-squared bishop next. 11...Re8 After Be3-Bh6, Black doesn't want to trade the bishops. With his last move, Black made some prophylaxis against White's plan. 11...c5 The e4-pawn is under attack. 12.d5 c6 Black gets rid of his doubled pawns. 12.Bh6 Bh8 Now, Black's rook is not hanging. This theme is also frequent in the Dragon Sicilian. 13.Rfe1 Nd7 Black opens his bishop and prepares ... c6 - c5. 14.e5 14.b4 Preventing c5 was a better alternative. 14...c5 15.exd6 Bxf3

Black gives his bishop pair advantage in exchange for spoiling White's kingside cover. 16.dxe7

Rxe7 17.gxf3 White's king will be in trouble if Black manages to activate his pieces against him. 17...cxd4

18.Nd5 This loses the game i m m e d i a t e l y . 18...Re5 Bauer missed the opportunity to end the game right away. But he is still winning. 18...Rxe1+ 19.Rxe1 Ne5 The d5-knight is under attack, and Black threatens ...Nxf3+. White has to give up the exchange on e5. 20.Qa5 Rb5 and White is lost.

19.Nf4 19.c4 c6 20.Nb4 was the best attempt. 19...Qh4 20.Ng2 Qxh3 White's position collapses 21.Rxe5 Nxe5 22.Qf4 Nxf3+ 23.Kf1 Re8

11) 2.Nf3: Model Games-Polzin,R

5.d5 Nb8

[5...Ne5 6.Nxe5 Bxe5 7.Be2 Bg7 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Bg5 c6 10.Qd2 cxd5 11.exd5 0-0 12.Rfe1 Bf5 13.Bc4 Rc8 14.Bb3 a6 15.Re2 Re8 16.Rae1]

6.Bc4

[6.h3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0-0 8.0-0 e5]

6...Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nf6 9.Bf4 0-0 10.0-0 c6 11.Rad1 Nbd7 12.Qe2 Qa5 13.Rfe1 Rac8 14.Bb3 Rfe8 15.dxc6 bxc6 16.Bd2 Qc7 17.Be3 Nb6 18.a4 a5 19.f4 e6 20.Qf2 Nfd7 21.f5 exf5 22.exf5 d5

5.Bb5

Pinning, as per our recommendation against 4...Nf6. 5...a6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.0-0 Now 7...Nf6 transposes to our main line, while if Black carries White may consider seizing space and playing against the knight on g8 with 8.e5 CCStartBracket CCwe should also mention that 7.e5!? is worth a

thought too in this rare move order **CC** EndBracket **CC** , and there's also no need to be concerned about being pinned: 7...Bg4 8.Be3 Covering d4. 8...Nf6 9.h3 Bxf3 or 9...Bd7 10.Qd2 followed by removing the bishop-pair from Black while slightly weakening his king's defenses with Bh6. 10.Qxf3 Rb8 11.Rab1 White enjoys a pleasant edge. Ideas of e5 are very much to the fore and that advance may even benefit from further preparation, as with 11...O-O 12.Qe2 Qc8 to prevent Qa6 13.f4 when White might even regroup further, as with b3, Qf3, Rad1 and Bf2-h4 before crashing through with e5 and/or f5, all the while denying Black much counterplay. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #22

15 **5...Nh6** 6.h3 f5?! Junior 5.0 (5s): 'Blatny,P: '?'! 7.d5! Junior 5.0 (5s): 'out of book Blatny,P: '!' 7...fxe4 Nimzowitsch: '?' 8.Nxe4 Bf5?? Junior 5.0 (5s): '+-?' Junior 5.0 (5s): 'Blatny,P: '??' [8...Ne5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Qe2 Δ g5 $\pm/\pm$ Blatney, P.: ' Δ 12. Δ g5 $\pm/\pm$ '] [8...Nb8!? Junior 5.0 (5s): ' Δ $\pm$ ' Junior 5.0 (5s): 'Blatny,P: '!'?' 9.Bd4! Nimzowitsch: '!'?' 0-0 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.Qd4+ Kg8 12.0-0-0 $\pm$ Nimzowitsch: '!'] 9.dxc6 bxc6 [9...Bxe4 10.Bxh6 Bxf3 (10...Bxh6 11.Qd4+- Nimzowitsch: '=') 11.Qxf3 Rf8 (11...Bxh6 12.cxb7 Δ b5 +- Δ b5 +- Nimzowitsch: '+-' Nimzowitsch: ' Δ Bb5+' -- Blatney, P. Δ 13.Bb5+-) 12.Qb3! (12.Qe3+-)

12...Bxh6 13.cxb7+- Nimzowitsch: '!'] 10.Bd3+- Junior 5.0 (5s): 'Blatny,P: '+-' 10...Qb8 11.0-0 [Δ 11.Rb1!? Bxe4 12.Bxe4 Qb4+ 13.Nd2 d5+-] 11...Qxb2 12.Qd2 [12.Rb1?! Nimzowitsch: '+-' Qxa2 $\equiv$ Nimzowitsch: '+-'] 12...Nf7 13.Qa5 Ne5 14.Nxe5 [14.Nd4 Rb8 15.Nd2 Qb6 16.Qxb6 axb6 17.Bxf5 gxf5 18.Nxf5 Bf6+-] 14...Qxe5 15.Qa4 [15.Qxe5 Bxe5 16.Rab1+- $\perp$ $\perp$ Nimzowitsch: '?!'] 15...Bd7 16.Rad1 [16.Rab1 0-0+-] 16...0-0 [16...c5 17.Qb3 $\vee$ e8 $\vee$ e8 Nimzowitsch: ' $\neq$ '] 17.Rfe1 e6 18.Ng3 Δ h6 Junior 5.0 (5s): 'Blatny,P: ' Δ h6 " Blatney, P.: '[Δ 19.h6] ' Δ h6 Junior 5.0 (5s): 'Blatny,P: ' Δ h6 " Nimzowitsch: '+-' [18.Ng5 Qf6+-] 18...Qf6 19.Qa5 Xc7 Junior 5.0 (5s): 'Blatny,P: 'Xc7" Blatney, P.: '[X c7]' 19...Qd8 20.Rb1 [20.Bxa7 Bd4! 21.Re2 Rxa7 $\mp$] 20...e5 [20...a6 21.a3+-] 21.Ba6 [21.Rb7!?] 21...d5 Junior 5.0 (5s): '?' [21...Bc8+-] 22.Bc5 Rf7 23.Bb7 Rb8 24.Qxa7 [24.Bxa7 Qf6 25.c4 Rd8 26.cxd5 Bf5+-] 24...Qe8 [24...Be6 25.Bxc6 Rc8 26.c3+-] 25.Bxc6! 1-0 (25) Treybal,K-Nimzowitsch, A Baden-Baden 1925 Nimzowitsch [Blatny,P] [25.Bxc6 Rxb1 26.Rxb1 Bxc6

27.Rb8+-]

¹⁶ **6.d5** Nb8 7.Qd2 c6
 [7...Bg4 8.Nd4 c5 9.dxc6 Nxc6
 (9...bxc6!?) 10.f3 Bd7 11.0-0-0 0-0]
 [7...0-0 8.h3 (8.Bh6 allows White to
 eliminate the main defender of Black's
 king at an opportune moment. Now
 Black will always have to wary of
 attacking ideas like h4-h5. 8.h4 can
 be met with 8...h5 when it'll be much
 harder to attack Black's king. This is
 why we play Bh6 first. e5 9.dxe6
 Bxe6 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.0-0-0
 gave White a big advantage in the
 game ½-½
 CCStartBracket CC47CCEndBracket
 CC Giri,A
 CC StartBracket CC 2782 CC EndBr
 acket CC -Duda,J
 CC StartBracket CC 2737 CC EndBr
 acket CC Dortmund 2018. White has
 more space in the center, is ahead
 in development and the dark-squares
 around Black's king are weak. The
 game continued 11...Nc6 12.h3 Re8
 13.g4 a6 14.Bg2 Nd7 15.Ng5 Nb6
 16.f4 Nc4 17.Qd3 b5 18.e5 Nb4
 19.Qg3 d5 Now Giri could have
 decided the game with 20.h4+-
 covering the knight in order to break
 with f5 next. 8. Bonus: 1...Nc6-4...g6
 #2) 8...c6]

8.Bh6

[8.h3 Nbd7 (8...b5? 9.dxc6 b4
 10.Bb5±) 9.g4!? cxd5 10.exd5 Nc5
 11.g5 (11.Bb5+!?) 11...Nfe4
 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Qb4 Nc5∞]
 [8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 b5! (9...cxd5?!
 10.exd5 b6 11.Bh6±)]

8...Bxh6 9.Qxh6 Qb6 10.0-0-0 Bg4
 [10...Qxf2!?

A) 11.e5 dxe5 12.Nxe5 Bf5

(12...Ng8 13.Qg7 Qf6 14.Qxf6
 Nxf6∞);

B) 11.Rd4 Ng4 12.Qg7 Qe3+
 13.Kb1 Rf8 14.dxc6 Nxc6 15.Nd5
 Qh6 16.Qxh6 Nxh6 17.Nc7+ Kd8
 18.Nxa8 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Bd7∞]

11.e5?!

[11.Rd2]

11...dxe5 12.d6 Nbd7!

[12...Bxf3 13.gxf3∞]

13.dxe7 Qb4 Chapter-Games Game 7

6.Qd2 0-0 6...Ng4?! only helps
 White. After 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4±
 Black has weakened his kingside
 with ...h6 and the g4 knight will
 soon be booted with h3. 6...Bg4
 can be met with 7.d5 Nb8 8.Be2±
 followed by h3 with a big space
 advantage.

[6...Ng4 7.Bg5 (7.Bf4 e5 8.Bg5 f6
 9.Bh4 0-0 10.Bc4+ Kh8 11.d5 Ne7
 12.h3 Nh6) 7...h6 8.Bh4]

7.Bh6

[7.0-0-0

A) 7...Ng4 8.Bf4 e5 9.dxe5
 Ngxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.h4;

B) 7...a6 8.Bh6 b5 9.Bxg7
 (9.Bd3 e5) 9...Kxg7 10.a3;

C) 7...--]

[7.Be2 e5 (7...a6 8.d5 Nb8 9.a4)

A) 8.0-0-0 Ng4 9.dxe5 dxe5
 10.Qxd8 (10.Qe1 Nd4 11.Kb1 c6
 12.Bxd4 exd4 13.h3 Qf6)
 10...Nxd8 11.Nd5 Ne6;

B) 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.0-0-0 Qe7
 (9...Ng4) 10.Bg5 Be6 11.Nd5
 Bxd5 12.exd5 Rfd8]

[7.Bc4

A) 7...Ng4 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 g5
 10.Bg3 e5 11.d5 Nd4;

B) 7...Bg4 8.0-0-0 (8.d5 Bxf3
 9.gxf3 Ne5 10.Be2 c5 11.0-0-0
 Qa5 12.Kb1 Rab8) 8...Nxe4

9.Nxe4 d5 10.Bd3 dxe4 11.Bxe4
Qd7 12.d5 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Ne5
14.Be2 Ng4 15.Bd4 e5 16.dxe6
Qxe6 17.Bxg7 Kxg7;

C) 7...--]

[7.d5 is both aggressive and very strong. 7.O-O-O is also possible although White's advantage is smaller here. Ne5 Going forward is no good as after 8.Nxe5 dxe5 Black's bishop on g7 is blocked. 9.O-O-O e6 10.f3 exd5 11.exd5 Next up is h4-h5 and Bh6 with a huge attack. 8. Bonus: 1... Nc6-3...Nf6 4...g6 #1]

7...e5 8.Bxg7 Kxg7 9.O-O-O

[9.d5! also gave Black a mating attack in Muhren - P. Littlewood, Ghent 2004. Ne7? was refuted elegantly in the following game: 10.O-O-O Rb8 11.Bd3! (11.h4 Bg4; 11.Kb1 0-1 Wolf - W. Schmidt, Germany 2006. b5) 11...b5 (11...c6; 11...Bg4)]

9...Bg4 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.-- **N,N-15.Nd5**
[11.Qe3 Nd4 12.Nb5 c5 13.c3 Qa5 14.Na3 (14.cxd4 cxd4 White regains the pawn temporarily, but material turns out to be the least of his concerns. 15.Qa3! White does not have a satisfactory defence. Rac8+ 16.Kb1 Black brings his last piece into play. Qxa3 17.Nxa3 Nxe4 White tries to keep the queenside as closed as possible. 18.Re1! The knight joins the attack with deadly effect. The finish might be: Nxf2 19.Rg1 Bxf3 20.gxf3 d3 21.Rxe5 d2 22.Be2 Rfe8 23.Nc4 b5) 14...Bxf3 This move comes too late to exchange queens, and White soon falls into trouble. 15.gxf3 Ne6]

6.Bc4

17 6...a6 7.Qd2 0-0 8.d5
[8.O-O-O b5 (8...e5 9.dxe5 dxe5)]
8...Nb8 9.Bh6 b5 10.Bxg7 Kxg7
11.Bd3 c5 12.dxc6 Nxc6

Chapter Bauer-Games Game 5

18 7.a4 simple and strong - the queen is well placed in the center for future operations, and White can already target the weak d6 square. Black has to be very careful. 7...b6

[7...e5±]

8.d5 disrupting Black's development and preparing the long castle.

[8.Bc4]

[8.Bb5]

8...Nb4 now that the black knight can no longer go to f6, the white bishop can retreat to e3 - job's done! 9.a5

bxa5

[9...Bd7]

10.Rxa5 c5

[10...c6 11.Ra4 a5± and Black's pawns make an excellent target practice for white pieces! (11...Rb8?! 12.Bxa7 Rb7) 12.dxc6 Nxc6! Disrupting Black's intentions to solidify in the center and open his light-squared bishop. It doesn't matter what Black does, his doubled c-pawns are eternally weak. 13.Bb5?! theoretically this move is possible but doesn't make any sense in the particular setup. White should be careful not to allow Black to play e6-e5.]

[10...Bd7 11.Rxa7 strictly speaking, the only move not to get into greater trouble than Black already is at the moment. Rxa7 12.Bxa7 c5 13.dxc6 Bxc6]

11.Ra3! White frees the d4 square for the knight thus Black's response is almost forced.

[11.Ra1]
 11...Ne8
 [11...e6 12.dxe6± 1/2-1/2 (31) Ehlvest,J (2597)-Milov,V (2657) Merida 2006 Bxe6 13.Be2]
 12.Na4! The black knight from g6 can no longer jump to e5, so White can start working on conquering all of the weak light squares in the center. White is much better.
 [12.Bc4 f5 13.0-0 fxe4 14.Ng5 Nf6 15.Bc1]
 12...f5? 13.c3
 [13.e5 f4]
 13...fxe4 14.Ng5
 [14.cxb4 cxb4 (14...exf3 15.bxc5 dxc5)]
 14...Nd3+ 15.Bxd3 exd3 16.Qxd3 Nc7 17.h4+-
 [17.c4 Bf5 18.Qd2]
 17...Bf5
 [17...Bd7 probably is also just as good, but in my opinion, this position is easier to misplay than the mainline.]
 [17...Ba6 typical of the particular pawn structure, White's strategy relies on targeting the doubled c-pawn. The inclusion of the Qb6 doesn't help Black at all. 18.c4 Qd7]
 18.Qd2 Rb8
 [18...Qb8 19.c4 Qb4]
 [18...c4]
 [18...h6± 19.Nf3 Kh7±]
 19.f3
 [19.h5 h6± with excellent winning chances for White - the pawns at the kingside are going to march forward sooner or later. 20.Nf3 g5±]
 [19.0-0 h6! 20.Nf3 Kh7 21.c4]
 19...Qe8 20.c4
 [20.0-0 Qb5]
 20...Rb4 21.b3 Qb8

[21...Rxb3 22.Rxb3 Qxa4 23.Rb7 (23.Rc3 Bxc3 24.Qxc3) 23...Qxc4]
 22.Qa2 h6 23.Nh3
 [23.Ne4 Nxd5 24.cxd5 Bxe4 25.fxe4 Rxe4 26.Qd2 (26.Rh3 Qb4+ 27.Ke2 Qb5+± With great practical problems for Black 28.Kd2?! Rf2+! a classical motif in the Sicilian defense - White sacrifices a knight to get to the black king. Black doesn't have a great choice - the knight on d5 doesn't allow Black to continue the development at the kingside. 29.Bxf2 Qe2+ 30.Kc1 Qf1+ 31.Kd2 Re2+! a rare exception - White very quickly regains material with some interest. 32.Kd3 Re1+) 26...Rxe3+ 27.Qxe3 Qb4+]
 23...e6 24.dxe6
 [24.g4!? an aggressive approach to solve opening problems sometimes give good results - now White has to be precise to claim an advantage in the opening, even if it requires a piece sacrifice! Bd3 25.Kd2 Rxf3 26.Nf2 (26.Kxd3 Bd4) 26...Rxf2+ 27.Bxf2 Be4]
 24...Nxe6 1-0 (28) Graf,A (2610)-Pambalou,F Korinthos 2001 25.Bd2 [25.g4 Bd3±]
 25...Nd4 26.Kf2 Nc2 27.g4 Bxg4 28.Qxc2 Rxf3+ 29.Kg2 Qb7±
 Black is losing a pawn and doesn't have sufficient compensation for it.
 30.Nxc5 Rg3+ 31.Kxg3 Qf3+ 32.Kh2 Qxh3+ 33.Kg1 Bd4+ Chapter Qb6 [GM Arturs Neiksans]
 7.Be2?? e5
 [7...a6]
 8.dxe5
 [8.d5 Ne7 9.Qd2 (9.0-0)]
 [8.0-0]
 8...dxe5

[8...Nxe5]
 9.0-0 Qe7 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.exd5 Nd4
 12.Re1 Nf5

7.d5

7.Bc4? extremely logical but
 there's one minor issue with the
 move... 7...Nxe4! and suddenly at
 move 7 White has created some
 serious problems! 8.Nxe4?? d5!

¹⁹ **7...Re8!? 8.Bh6 Bh8**

8.d5

[8.dxe5

A) 8...Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.0-0-0
 Be6 11.g4 c6 12.g5 (12.Qxd8
 Rfxd8 13.Rxd8+ Rxd8 14.Bxa7
 Bh6+ 15.Be3 Bxe3+ 16.fxe3 h5
 17.g5 Nh7 18.h4 f6 19.gxf6
 Nxf6) 12...Nd7 13.h4 Qa5;

B) 8...dxe5 1-0 (10) Smirin,I (2555)-
 Afek,Y (2365) Ramat Gan 1992
 9.Qxd8 Rxd8 10.Bc4 h6 11.0-0
 Be6± Black is still breathing, but
 probably not for long. (11...b6
 12.Nd5 Na5!? (19...Rh5N might be
 even stronger 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6
 14.Be2 Bb7 (Black is better)
 Wernikiewicz - Berza, email 2006.
 15.b4 Nc6! 16.c3 a5 17.a3 Ne7+
 Burrige - Ben Fredj, email 2012
 18.Nd2 doesn't change much: Bg5)
 12.Bxe6 fxe6 also doesn't look
 cheerful for Black.]

[8.0-0-0 exd4 9.Nxd4 Re8 10.f3
 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Be6 12.g4 (12.Bf2
 a6 13.Kb1 b5 14.h4 c5) 12...c5
 13.Be3 Qa5 (13...d5) 14.Qxd6
 (14.Bh6 Bxh6 15.Qxh6 Bxa2
 16.Rxd6 Re6) 14...Nxe4 15.fxe4
 Bxc3 16.Qxc5 (16.bxc3 Qa3+
 17.Kd2 Rad8; 16.Bd3) 16...Bxb2+
 17.Kxb2 Qxa2+ 18.Kc1 Rac8]

8...Ne7

[8...Nb8]

9.Bh6

[9.0-0-0 a6 10.g4 b5

A) 11.Bd3

A1) 11...Bb7= Li Ruofan -
 Kolbus, Port Erin 2004.
 12.Ne2!?N (12.a3; 12.g5!?N)
 12...c6 (12...Nfxd5 is also an
 option.);

A2) 11...b4 12.Ne2 Nexd5
 13.exd5 e4 14.Bxe4 Nxe4
 15.Qxb4= The position remains
 balanced. Black's idea is shown
 after 15...Re8;

A3) 11...--;

B) 11.g5 Nh5 It is important to
 cover the e5-square sooner or later.
 There is no doubt that 11...Bd6 is
 also fine. 12.-- Another direction is:
 N,N-9.Bd2 (12.Kb1 Bd7 13.Nh2
 Nc8 14.Ng4 Nb6 15.b3!
 This may look a bit passive, but in
 the following game Black quickly
 achieved full equality. b4 16.Ne2
 a5)]

[Another reasonable option is 9.Be2
 Bd7 (9...Nxe4 10.Nxe4 f5 11.Nc3
 f4 12.0-0-0) 10.g4 (10.Bh6 c6
 11.dxc6 Bxc6) 10...b5
 which occurred in two encounters.
 Now after 11.g5N (11.Bd3 b4
 transposes to the earlier note with 9.
 Nf3. 12.Ne2 c6 13.dxc6 Bxc6
 14.Ng3 Nxe4; 11.a3 Rb8 12.Bxa7
 Ra8 13.Be3 b4) 11...b4 12.gxf6
 bxc3 13.Qxc3= Black has no
 problems. Bxf6]

[9.Rd1 Nh5 10.g4 Nf4 11.Bxf4 exf4
 12.Qxf4 f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.g5
 Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 Re8 16.Be2 Ng6]

[9.g4 a6]

9...Bd7

[9...Ne8 10.-- Δf5]

10.Bxg7

[10.Bd3 c6 (10...b5 11.a3 a5 12.0-0 b4) 11.dxc6! Bxc6 12.Bxg7 with good play on the queenside. Kxg7 13.0-0 Qc7 (13...b5)]

[10.0-0-0 b5 was equal in Hebden - N. Pert, Bunratty 2013. The text move seems more interesting as an attempt to unbalance the game.]

10...Kxg7 11.Rd1

[11.0-0-0 Qe8 12.-- Δb5]

11...Nh5 12.g4 Nf4 13.Ne2 Nxe2 14.Bxe2 Ng8

[14...f5?! 15.gxf5 gxf5 16.Rg1+→]

15.Rg1 Qe7 16.Qe3! Rae8 17.Kd2! c6 18.Kc1

[≤18.dxc6 Bxc6 19.Kc1 Nf6 20.-- Δd5]

18...cxd5 19.exd5

[19.Rxd5 Bc6 (19...Be6)]

19...Rc8

[Δ19...f5 20.gxf5 Bxf5]

20.Kb1 Rc5 21.c4! a5 22.Nd2! a4 23.Ne4 Ra5 24.Qa3!

[≤24.c5 dxc5 25.d6∞]

24...f5 25.Nxd6 fxd4 26.Bxg4 Bxg4

[26...Rxf2 27.Bxd7 Qxd7 28.Qe3]

27.hxg4 Rxf2 28.Nf5+! gxf5

[28...Rxf5 29.Qxe7+ Nxe7 30.gxf5 Nxf5 31.Rge1]

29.gxf5+ Kf7

[29...Kf8 30.Rxg8+]

[Δ29...Kf6 30.Qg3 Rxf5 31.Qh4+ Kf7 32.Qxh7+ Ke8 33.Qxf5 Nf6 34.d6+-]

30.Qg3! Rxb2+

[30...Rxf5 31.Qxg8+ Kf6 32.Qh8+-]

31.Kxb2 Qf8

[31...a3+ 32.Ka1]

32.Qxe5 Ra6 33.d6 Qh6 34.Qd5+ 1-0 (34) Snosko Borowsky-Morrison, J Scarborough 1926 Kagans

Neueste Schach... [Kagans Neueste...]

²⁰ **4.exd5** exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7+ 7.Qe2 Bf5 8.c3 Be4 9.Nbd2 0-0-0 10.0-0-0 Nh6 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Bg6 Black is already preparing to maneuver. The weaknesses are the e-pawn and the b1-h7 diagonal; the pivot point is the e4 square

13.Nf3 Rhe8 14.Qe3 Kb8 15.Qf4 Be4 The value of this square is already apparent

16.Re1 Qc5 17.Nd2 Bg6 18.Nb3 Qb6 19.Qd4 f6 20.f4 fxe5 21.fxe5

[21.Rxe5 Rxe5 22.Qxe5 Re8⌘]

21...Be4 Now the e-pawn must fall, but afterwards is when the maneuvering beings in earnest

22.Nd2 c5 23.Qe3

[23.Qa4 Rxe5 24.Nxe4 dxe4 25.Rxe4 Qe6!→ 26.Rxe5 Qxe5⌘]

23...Rxe5 24.Qg3 Qc7 25.Bd3 Rde8 26.Bxe4 dxe4 27.Nc4 R5e6 28.Qxc7+ Kxc7 29.Ne3! The Knight reaches an ideal blockading square. As we have already learned, such a Knight is the perfect counter to a passed pawn

29...Nf7 30.Kc2 Nd6 31.c4 Kc6 32.Rhf1 Rh6! A typical tacking maneuver. Black forces a weakening of the enemy pawn structure which, although apparently insignificant, now, will later become a matter of decisive importance

33.h3 Rg6 34.Re2 a6 Play on both flanks: the advance ... Δb5 will lead at least to an increase in Black's space control

35.Rf4 b5 36.b3 Rg5 37.g4 Rge5 38.Kc3 a5 39.Ref2

[39.-- Δa4 40.-- axb3 41.axb3 bxc4
42.bxc4 opening two Queenside files
for his Rooks

] 39...a4 40.bxa4 bxc4! This temporary
pawn sacrifice

41.Rf8

[41.Nxc4 Nxc4 42.Kxc4 Ra8
Black regains his pawns, at the same
time removing the blockade of his
passed pawn

] 41...R5e7 Safety first. Under no
circumstances will Black tolerate an
enemy Rook operating behind his
lines

42.Rxe8 Rxe8 43.Nxc4 Nxc4
44.Kxc4 Ra8 Black's alternative
maneuvers have created progress.
The Black Rook will now force an
entry on the Queenside and then
proceed to threaten the White
pawns on the Kingside

45.Rf7 As usual in Rook endings
the best defence is counterattack.

[45.Kb3 Kd5 followed by the advance
of the e-pawn would lead to a quick
loss for White

] 45...Rxa4+ 46.Kb3 Rb4+ 47.Kc3 Rb7
48.Rf5 Ra7 49.Kc4

[49.-- ∇Ra3+]

49...Ra4+ 50.Kb3 Rd4 51.Re5 Kd6
52.Re8 Rd3+ 53.Kc4 Rxh3 54.Rxe4
Ra3! This marks the culmination of the
alternative maneuvers against the
two weaknesses. White can no
longer protect them both at the
same time

55.Re2 Ra4+ 56.Kb5 Rxg4 57.a4
Rb4+ 58.Ka5 h5 59.Rd2+ Kc6 60.Re2
Rg4 61.Re6+ Kd5 62.Re8 h4 63.Rd8+
Kc4 64.Kb6 h3 65.Rd1 Kb4 66.Rb1+

Kxa4 67.Kxc5 g5 68.Rh1 Rg3 69.Kd4
g4 70.Ke4 Rg2 71.Kf4 h2 0-1 (71)
Micheli,C-Rubinstein,A London ;
HCL 20 1926 HCL 07 [35: Lasker's
Maneuvering Skill]

21

4...Na5!? 5.c3 b6

4...f6 The strong Serbian GM Indjic
has played this move in blitz games.
The move is not bad and extremely
typical, attacking our center. 4...
Nge7 5.c3 We will once again play
c3-Bd3-Qe2. The moves come by
themselves! 5...Nf5 The knight
has to be placed here, because 5...
Ng6 is met by 6.h4! when Black
has major problems. 6.Bd3 6...Be7
7.h4!? This move looks strong to
me. 7...h5 Played in all the human
games I found, and for good reason.
If we are allowed to play h5, we can
soon follow up with g4, when
Black's pieces will be pushed back.
8.Bg5 b6 Black tries to complete
his development and castle to the
queenside. 8... f6 is nothing to
worry about as we can simply play
9. Bf4, when Black's kingside is
weak. 9.Nbd2 Bb7 10.Qe2
Keeping options open. If Black
castles kingside we will castle
queenside, and vise versa. 10...
Qd7 11.a4 Preparing an attack on
the queenside. 11...O-O-O Black
goes for it anyway, as he has to
castle somewhere. 12.a5 A strong
move, but not the only road to
Rome. 12...f6 13.Bf4 fxe5 And
now, in Jansa,V - Markos,J Czech
Republic 2011, the easiest way
forward would have been to play
14.axb6! Opening the a-file. 14...
cxb6 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Bxe5+-

Black's king will soon be surrounded by enemy pieces. The engine gives an advantage as high as +6 which may be surprising to you, but Black can't do anything about our upcoming assault. One strong plan is to play Nf3, followed by Bh2 and Ne5. 5.c3 I suggest to play this move, taking control of the b4 square and protecting the d4-pawn. Less obvious than the logical 5.Bb5, but very strong. We replace our e5 pawn with our d4 pawn and keep the space advantage.

[5.Bb5 Nge7 6.exf6!? gxf6 7.Nh4 Bg7 8.Qh5+ Kf8 9.Bh6?! (9.c3 -- Δ10.f4 -- 11.0-0) 9...Rg8 10.c3 Qe8! 11.Bxg7+ Kxg7 12.Qf3?! (12.Qe2 -- Δ13.f4 -- 14.0-0) 12...Ng6 13.Nxg6 Qxg6 14.Bd3 Qh6 15.Nd2 e5! 16.Qxd5?! (16.Qe3) 16...exd4 17.0-0-0? (17.Ne4) 17...dxc3 18.bxc3 Bg4 19.f3 Rad8 20.Qb5 Be6 21.Be4 Rd6 22.Kc2 Ne5! 23.Qxb7? Kh8 24.g3 (24.Qxc7 Rd7 25.Qc5 Rxc7) 24...f5 25.Qxc7 (25.Qb5 Qf6 26.f4 Ng4) 25...Rgd8 26.Nb3 fxe4 27.Qxd8+ (27.Rxd6 Rxd6 28.f4 Ng4 29.Nd4 -- Δ30.Rb1) 27...Rxd8 28.Rxd8+ Kg7 29.fxe4? Qe3 30.Nd2 Bc4 31.Rd1 Bd3+ 32.Kc1 Be2 0-1 (32) Honfi,K-Portisch,L Hungary 1957 [Hajtun]]

5...Nge7 A Bulgarian GM won a game with this move, so let's take a look. 5...fxe5 Black's most common move is to take right away, when I suggest to play 6.Nxe5! I like this move more than 6.dxe5, when Black can play 6...Nh6. 6...Nxe5 7.dxe5± The play from here is simple. We will play Nd2 and place the knight on f3. The bishop will be

placed on d3 and the queen on e2. We can play f4 as well if we so desire. Later on we will castle queenside and start expanding on the queenside with a4-b4.

[5...fxe5 6.Nxe5 Nxe5 7.dxe5 White has a much easier development, due to the extra space. Bc5 An attempt to develop harmoniously. 8.Qh5+ Provoking g6, weakening the dark square complex on the kingside. g6 9.Qh3 Black's position is very weakened and we will finish our development with Bd3 and Nd2-Nf3, when eventually the dark square weaknesses will tell. 15) Black's Early Alternative-1...Nc6 with 2...e6]

6.Bd3 fxe5 Black can't do much else. 7.dxe5 The best way to capture although I will admit, 7.Nxe5 is also strong as in Freeman, D - Primrose, J I C C F e m a i l 2 0 1 7 . 7...g6 Black tries to desperately develop his pieces, but it's easier said than done. 8.h4 A strong move, White is going to play h5 and create weaknesses in Black's camp if he gets the chance. 8...Bg7 9.Qe2 h6 The idea behind this move is to meet h5 with g5. 10.Na3 Is more accurate than 10.Bf4, which happened in Dimitrov, P - Drenchev, P Plovdiv 2007. White's knight is headed to c2 where it can support the queenside pawns or jump to d4. 10...Bd7 11.Bd2 0-0 12.0-0-0 Our attack is more dangerous than Black's attack on the queenside, as demonstrated in the following variation: 12...a6 13.Kb1 b5 14.Nc2 A strong move, preventing Black from playing b4 with a tempo. 14...a5 15.h5 g5

And now, we break through with
 16.Bxg5 hxc5 17.h6 Bh8 18.h7+ Kg7
 19.Nxc5 Black's king won't survive for
 long. 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1...
 2...d5 (2...e6)

22 **8.h4** Steve Giddins: 'QUESTION:
 What is the idea?'

[ANSWER: White wants to drive away
 the enemy knight with g2-g4, but the
 immediate **8.g4** allows the reply Nh4
 , hence the preparatory text. However,
 the computer points out that even this
 may be good for White, thanks to a
 very nasty tactic: 9.Nxc4 Qxc4
 10.Nd2 , and now I suspect
 Nimzowitsch (and Spielmann)
 assumed Black is doing well after the
 counterblow h5 . However, the demon
 silicon beast points out that White
 then has 11.Nf3 , and now Qxc4?
 Steve Giddins: 'fails to the queen-trap'
 (11...Qh3 is a better try, although
 after 12.gxc4 Qxc4 13.Rg1
 it is still not very nice for Black)
 fails to the queen-trap 12.h3 Qg2
 13.Rh2 .]

8...h5 Steve Giddins: 'Black stops 9 g4,
 but at the cost of weakening g5.
 ' 9.Ng5=

[9.Bg5 Steve Giddins: 'was also
 tempting.' Nge7±]

9...g6± Steve Giddins: '?' '?' '?' Steve
 Giddins: 'QUESTION: Isn't this part
 of his blockade plan on f5?

ANSWER: Yes, but it is a really
 rather horrible move. Alekhine
 himself wrote that "Black's position
 could, perhaps, have withstood the
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 much.' Nimzowitsch, Aron: 'The
 wrong overprotection move.'

[9...Be7 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bd3=]

[Nimzowitsch himself later agreed,
 and recommended Nimzowitsch, Aron:
 'Correct was' **9...Nge7** Nimzowitsch,
 Aron: 'at once. Then White could not
 have executed the maneuver Nd2-f1
 with f3 and g4, e.g.' 10.Nd2 c5
 , although I still don't think much of
 Black's game after simply
 Nimzowitsch, Aron: 'and the base of
 the chain at d4 is shaky.' 11.Ndf3 .]

10.Nd2 Nge7

[The attempted larceny of **10...Nxc4?**
 is justly punished by 11.Bb5+! e.g.
 Bd7 12.Bxd7+ Kxd7 (12...Qxd7
 13.Rxc4) 13.Nxf7 , winning.]

[10...c5]

[10...Be7 would have been better, for
 the overprotection has now no object,
 as White's f3 and g4 can no longer
 be prevented]

11.Nf1 Steve Giddins: 'QUESTION: That
 looks a bit surprising. I assumed the
 knight would come to f3.

ANSWER: That would also have
 been good, but Spielmann's move

is very logical too. He intends to challenge the black blockade on f5, by playing f3 and g4, so his knight covers the g3-square in advance.

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Nimzowitsch/Alekhine: 'Δ f3, g4'

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' 12.f3

[12.dxc5!? bxc5 13.b3=]

12...c4= Steve Giddins: '?' '?' '?' '?'

[Steve Giddins: 'Black's last chance to obtain a vaguely playable position was' 12...cxd4 13.g4 Steve Giddins: 'Nimzowitsch/Alekhine: '!' hxc4

14.fxg4 Steve Giddins: ', and now the computer's suggestion' Rxh4 (14...dxc3! 15.gxf5 Nxf5 16.bxc3 Qc7 .

QUESTION: So Black has sacrificed a piece?

ANSWER: Yes, but he has two pawns, and has broken up the white position a good deal. The white king has no particularly safe home.

QUESTION: So Black is OK here?

ANSWER: I am not sure about that. White is still better after .

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Steve Giddins: '17.Bd2 , for example, but Black has some play and some practical chances.;

14...Nh6 15.cxd4 is just positionally great for White, who has refuted the attempted kingside blockade plan,;

whilst 14...Nhx4? 15.Qf2 loses a piece for Black Steve Giddins:

'loses a piece for Black Nimzowitsch/Alekhine: '+-') 15.Rxh4 Nhx4±]

13.Bc2 Steve Giddins: 'Now the character of the game has changed completely from the line given in the previous note. The position remains closed, but Black has no

real counterplay at all.

QUESTION: What is the problem?

ANSWER: The move 12...c4 has lifted the pressure from White's centre, which is now very securely defended, and he has a free hand on the kingside.

QUESTION: But Black can play ...b5-b4, can't he, with a queenside counterattack?

ANSWER: Yes, but that is little more than a pin-prick for White. Black cannot bring any extra pressure to bear against c3, which is anyway easy to defend. Meanwhile, Black has terrible problems on the kingside.

QUESTION: So your verdict would be 'Don't try this at home'?

ANSWER: Definitely. If pressed for a judgement, I would say Black is strategically lost.

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Ng7

Steve Giddins: 'QUESTION: This looks like another typically bizarre Nimzowitsch position! --- ANSWER: Yes, one does not see too many fianchettoed knights. But that is for a good reason - this position is just dreadful for Black. His only hope is that the fairly blocked nature of the position will make it hard for White to break through.' Nimzowitsch, Aron: 'and White had the better position, although he lost in the end by an over-hasty attack. It can be seen that, in this game also,

overprotection, if correctly carried out, would have been beneficial.'

[Not 14...hxf4? 15.fxf4 Rxf4 (or 15...Nxf4 16.Qf2) 16.Rxf4 Nxf4 17.Qf2 and wins]

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[Logical enough, although the computer is very keen on the plan of bringing the white queen to f4: 15.Qd2 Nc6 16.Qf4 , and after Qe7 17.Bd2 Black is appallingly tied up. Admittedly, White still has to break through, though.]

15...Nc6 16.Qg2 Steve Giddins: 'It was still possible to revert to the plan of bringing the queen to f4, but Spielmann has another idea. He intends to break in down the g-file, with the aid of a sacrifice on f7.

QUESTION: Was that really necessary?

ANSWER: Maybe not, but a

sacrifice is the usual way to deal with these blocked structures. Once White has all his pieces mobilized, his massive space advantage usually allows him to transfer pieces to the critical sector of the board much more readily than Black is able to do, suffering as he does with such a cramped position, and lacking lines of communication for his pieces. As the later notes will show, Spielmann's plan was perfectly correct and should have won.

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16...Be7

[16...Ra7 17.gxh5 Nxh5 18.Nxh5 Rxh5 19.Nxf7 Rxf7 20.Bxg6 Rxh4 21.Bxf7+ Kxf7 22.Rg1]

17.gxh5 gxh5

[17...Nxh5 Steve Giddins: '?' '?' '?' '?' 18.Nxf7! (18.Nxh5 Rxh5 allows an immediate winning breakthrough with 19.Nxf7 . Steve Giddins: 'Nimzowitsch/Alekhine: '+-') 18...Kxf7 19.Bxg6+ Kf8 20.Nxh5 (20.Bxh5?! Bxh4 21.Kd1 Ra7±) 20...Bxh4+ 21.Kf1 Nxd4 22.cxd4+-]

18.Rg1

[18.Nh7 Bxh4 19.Rxh4! Qxh4 20.Bg5+-]

18...Ra7 19.Nxf7??-+ Steve Giddins: '!' '!' '!' Steve Giddins: 'The critical moment of the game has been reached.' '!'

[♞19.Qd2±]

[The text is objectively good enough to win, as the following note shows, but Alekhine's suggestion of one more preparatory move with **19.Ke2** was even better.

QUESTION: Why is that?

ANSWER: The king move serves two purposes. Firstly, it gets the king out of the way of a check from h4 (we will

see the move ...Bxh4+ cropping up in various of the subsequent variations), and it clears the back rank, in anticipation of the queen's rook being able to swing over to the kingside.

QUESTION: But presumably Spielmann was afraid of giving Black extra time to arrange his defences. Can't he make profitable use of the tempo gained?

ANSWER: Analysis suggests not. 20 Nxf7 is now a devastating threat, so the obvious thing to do is to cover f7, by means of Steve Giddins: 'was even better.

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19...Kxf7 20.Nxh5 Threatening mate... how? Steve Giddins: '?' '?' '?' Steve Giddins: 'This second piece sacrifice is a step too far, however. Spielmann had probably missed Black's 23rd move.' '?'

[Alekhine suggested various possible alternatives for White, one of which is 20.Ne4! , which the computer confirms is the strongest, and just wins by force: Bxh4+ (now we see why the preparatory 19 Ke2 would have been useful, so this move does not come with check, but White is winning anyway) 21.Ke2 Kg8 (or 21...Ne8 22.Nd6+ Ke7 23.Qh3 and wins) 22.Nd6 Qf8 (if 22...Rc7 23.Qg6 with ideas of Bh6 or even Ne8; after Qf8 24.Bh6 the attack is crushing: the threats include Ne8 and Rg2 followed by Rag1) 23.Qh3 Be7 (23...Bd8 24.Nxc8) 24.Rxg7+! Qxg7 25.Nxc8 Rc7 26.Qxe6+ Qf7 27.Nxe7+ Nxe7 28.Qb6 and White has material equality (two pawns for the exchange), and still a raging attack, with Be3 and Rg1 coming.]

[Another Alekhine suggestion was 20.Ne2 , after which Keene gives the variation Bxh4+ 21.Kd1 Kg8? (however, in this line, Fritz points out that Black is hanging on after 21...Qg8 , so 20 Ne2 is not so good) 22.Nf4 Rf7 23.Ng6 Be7 24.Nxh8 Kxh8 25.Qg6 , winning. Steve Giddins: ', winning. Nimzowitsch/Alekhine: '+-!']

[20.Bg6+]

[20.Nf5]

20...Bxh4+!

[20...Nxh5?? 21.Qg6+ Kf8 22.Bh6+ Ng7 23.Bxg7+ Kg8 24.Bh6#]

[20...Rxh5?? 21.Qxg7+ Ke8 22.Bg6+ Kd7 23.Bxh5+-]

21.Ke2 Nxh5

[21...Rxh5?? 22.Qxg7+ Ke8 23.Bg6+ Rf7 24.Qxf7#]

22.Bg6+ Ke7 23.Bxh5 The mate threat is Qg7 23...Kd7 Steve Giddins: '!!' '!!' '!!' Steve Giddins: 'Nimzowitsch/

Alekhine: '!' '!!' Steve Giddins: 'No doubt a very unpleasant shock for Spielmann,'

[Steve Giddins: 'No doubt a very unpleasant shock for Spielmann, who had presumably only reckoned on' 23...Rxh5?! 24.Qg7+ Ke8 25.Qg8+ (25.Qg6+ , although even here, things are still fairly unclear after Kd7 26.Qxh5 Be7 .) 25...Kd7 26.Qf7+ Be7 27.Qxh5=]

24.Qg7+ Be7 25.Bf7 Steve Giddins: 'Nimzowitsch/Alekhine: 'Δ 26.Bxe6+ Kxe6 27.Qg4+ Kf7 28.Qg6+ Kf8 29. Bh6+' 25...Rh2+

[25...Qf8 26.Qxf8 Bxf8 27.Be3-+]

26.Kd1 Kc7

[26...Qf8 was also winning, but at most points from now on, Black had other equally good choices than the moves played. The rest does not really require detailed commentary.]

27.Bf4?

[Δ27.b3-+]

27...Rxb2 28.Qh7 Kb6 29.Rg8 Qc7

30.Qh8

[30.Qh3 Bd8 31.Rg7 Bf6-+]

30...Nd8

[30...Ba3!? 31.Be8 Qh7 32.Qxh7 Rxh7 33.Rg1-+]

31.Bg6 Rg2#

[Δ31...Bd7!?!-+]

32.Qh1 Rxc6! Steve Giddins: 'Black gives back some of his extra material, to eliminate one of the white attacking pieces. This is not the only way to win, but is a typical defensive technique, of course.'

' 33.Rxc6 b4

[33...Ba3 34.Bc1 Qf7 35.Qg2#]

34.Rg7

[34.Rb1 Qd7 35.Qg2 Qa4+ 36.Qc2 Qxc2+ 37.Kxc2 Nc6#]

34...Qc6

[34...bxc3 35.Bg5 Nc6 36.Bxe7 c2+ 37.Kc1 Nxe7 38.Kxc2-+]

35.Qh8-+

[35.Rg2 Qa4+ 36.Rc2 bxc3 37.Rb1+ Ka6-+]

35...Qa4+

[35...bxc3 36.Rxe7 Rxe7 37.Qxd8+ Qc7 38.Qxc7+ Kxc7 39.Bg3#]

36.Ke1 Nc6 Steve Giddins:

'Nimzowitsch/Alekhine: '!'

[36...bxc3?? 37.Rxe7 Rd7 38.Bg5+-]

37.Qxc8? Steve Giddins: 'Allowing a decisive counterattack, but it really does not matter anymore. White could and should just resign.'

[Δ37.Rg2 Kc7 38.Rc1-+]

37...Bh4+ 38.Bg3

[38.Rg3 Qc2 39.Rd1 Qxc3+ 40.Ke2-+]

38...Rxc7 39.Bxh4 Qc2! Do you see the mate threat? Steve Giddins: 'Nimzowitsch/Alekhine: '!'

[39...Rg1+ 40.Kf2 Rxa1 41.Bd8+! Nxd8 42.Qxd8+=]

40.Bd8+ Nxd8 41.Qb8+

[Steve Giddins: 'He runs out of checks at once after' 41.Qxd8+ Kb7 Steve Giddins: '.' Steve Giddins: '. Nimzowitsch/Alekhine: '-+!' 42.Qe7+ Rxe7 43.Rc1 Qxc1+ 44.Ke2 Rh7 45.Kf2 Rh2+ 46.Kg3 Qg1+ 47.Kf4 Rh4#]

41...Nb7 Steve Giddins: 'QUESTION: But surely Nimzowitsch was just lucky here, wasn't he? He was outplayed and had a lost position, only for his opponent to miss a tactic and sacrifice unsoundly.

ANSWER: That is all true, but this is in many ways typical of the

'provocation' style, of which Nimzowitsch was fond. His opening play was deliberately very risky and provocative, tempting his opponent to attack and to burn his boats in the process. It is true that, this time, Nimzowitsch went a bit far, and objectively was losing, but that is always an inherent risk with such an approach.

Other defenders, who have adopted a similar approach, include the young Korchnoi, and he too would lose a few games that way, and an even greater number of post-mortems, where his opponents would succeed in showing that they should have won. However, 'should have' and 'could have' do not yield even a fraction of a point in the tournament table, and overall, the Nimzowitschs and Korchnois won an awful lot more games as Black than they would have done with a correct, equalizing approach.' Steve Giddins: 'QUESTION: But surely Nimzowitsch was just lucky here, wasn't he? He was outplayed and had a lost position, only for his opponent to miss a tactic and sacrifice unsoundly.

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[41...Nb7 42.Qxb7+ Kxb7 43.Kf1 Rg2 44.cxb4 Qe2#]

23

4.Bc4 Nf6 For clarity, we would normally reach this position via
CG StartFEN **CG** rnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0
 1**CG** EndFEN **CG** 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5

[5.0-0 White's intention is to allow the e-pawn to be captured, intending quick development and pressure along the e-file before Black has a chance to castle. Nxe4 I think it's best to take this pawn and in doing so take up the challenge. Provided Black plays well there are surprisingly few dangers in this line. Black will shore up his knight on e4 with ...d5 giving him time to castle. This line has become somewhat unfashionable as with decent play White struggles to achieve anything. Black must be alert not to allow his king to be caught in the middle. 5...Bc5 This is the main alternative but there is one line that puts me off. 6.e5 Ng4 7.Bf4 The e5-pawn is now defended so if Black O-O then h3 would force the knight back to h6 where it can be exchanged 7...O-O 8.h3 Nh6 9.Bxh6 gxh6 The opening of Black's king position is far from fatal but I really don't feel any compulsion to allow this when the line suggested does a very effective job without such concerns. 6.Re1 d5 It's ...d5 again and it's easily the best way to support the knight on e5. 7.Bxd5 The speculative 7.Nc3 is covered in the theory section. Qxd5 8.Nc3 This looks quite flashy, taking advantage of two pins. The one on the

knight to the king on e8 and the one on the pawn on d4 to the queen on d5. The move is effective but no more and White should be happy to stop the game here as it's more style over substance. All that being said, Black is well advised to have a prepared line and I have one that many White players are unfamiliar with. It leads very quickly to a comfortable game for Black, often with the bishop for the knight and also there are some lines where White can go astray but admittedly not too many. Qd7 This is my suggestion. At first glance, it looks odd. 8...Qa5 is the main move followed by 8...Qh5 but we are always looking for a decent move which could catch our opponent unaware. The reason to retreat to d7 and not d8 is the advantage of our knight being covered on c6 if White takes on e4 with his rook and then on d4 with his knight. These ideas are shown in greater detail in the theory section. 9.Rxe4+ If you reach the position after 8... Qd7 you will be pleasantly surprised how many of your opponents will play this move. It looks so good, taking on e4 with a check but as we will see, the rook actually becomes a target and 9.Nxe4 should be preferred. Be7 10.Nxd4 f5 The key move. Now White's rook must leave the e-file as it must remain on the fourth rank defending the d4 knight. 11.Rf4 The rook is misplaced on f4 with minor pieces on the board. It's not terminal for White but he is the one who must tread very carefully in order to regroup successfully. 0-0 It's important to castle before trying to exploit the position of the rook on f4.

White's lack of a light-squared bishop means that ...f5 somewhat exposing the now castled king is not readily exploitable by White. 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Qe2 Be6 The bishop develops to the most active square. Black is building up a good position courtesy of the bishop pair, the ability of the queenside rook to enter proceedings and White's discoordination. 14.Nb5 White seeks to relocate the knight to d4 threatening a fork of queen and bishop. Bd5 Black's well aware of the purpose of White's last move and it actually allows him to put his bishop on the massive d5 square. It's a beast. This is a timely reminder to not just focus on your own moves and plans but always ask yourself the question, 'Why did my opponent play his move?' It's easy to get caught up in the moment and forget this golden rule **CCStartBracket CCquestion CCEndBracket CC**. 15.Qxe7 I wanted to show you this game as it has been a perfect demonstration to this point but inexplicably Black now makes a game-changing blunder when victory was at his mercy. Rae8 Black moves the wrong rook to e8 as he needed his rook on a8 to support the advance of ...a5 when White retreats the queen to b4. 15...Rfe8 ! 16.Qb4 Covering the knight on b5 but more importantly the e1 square to avoid a bank rank checkmate. 16...a5 ! 17.Qd2 Bxg2 ! Black is a piece down but White is effectively pieces down as his queenside forces cannot aid in the defence of his king and his light squares are there for the taking. The knight on b5 is also vulnerable so he has no time to protect his kingside if

he wastes time-saving his knight e.g. 18.Nc3 Bh3 Threatening mate on g2. 19.f3 Qg6+ The queen will not be denied her role and White is busted. A real shame this wasn't played as it would have been a fitting finish to our preferred line. 16.Qb4 Black missed his big chance but he doesn't allow this disappointment to lead to a loss. White can save the game now but incredibly he gives Black another shot at redemption. a5 17.Qd2 17.Qxa5 was the only way to stay alive. Qxb5 Incredibly: Black returns the favour. 17...Bxg2 would have led to similar positions after 15...Rfe8 but here it is even better as the black rooks are on f8 and e8 not a8 and e8. 18.a4 Qc6 19.f3 Bc4 19...Bf7 Black needed to retreat the bishop to meet 20.Qxa5 with 20...Qxc2 20.Qc3 Qb6+ The game eventually ends in a draw but not before White has some awkward moments to navigate. 21.Be3 Rxe3 22.Qxc4+ Kh8 Black's active rooks give him a clear practical edge. 23.Qd4 Qe6 Black wisely avoids the exchange of queens as he has more activity and arguably the White king is weaker as a result. 24.h4 Re2 The rook invades on the second rank. The pressure is mounting. Note as well that White's rook has been on the f4 square since the move 11! 25.Qc5 Rf6 Intending to go to g6. The c7 pawn is just a pawn and Black has a bigger target in mind ...the king. 26.Rf1 h5 Completely understandable as it prevents White playing h5 so the g6 square is still available for the rook but ultimately this is too loose and 26...h6 was best. Black would

actually welcome an h5 advance as this pawn becomes too weak. 27.Rf2 Re1+ 28.Kh2 Rd1 The worst is now over and a draw should result but not before White gives Black more chances to win! 29.Qc4 29.Qxc7 Going for checks would have led to a draw. Qe1 The bank rank invasion should seal the deal but ultimately it would seem Black had little intention to win this game. 30.Re2 Qg1+ 31.Kh3 Rd8 Black panics and overestimates White's desire for a perpetual check. After 31...Kh7! the king is safe from any immediate checks and Black should win. White is basically in zugzwang, courtesy in no small part from his rook being stranded on f4. 32.Re8 Rd2 White only has one check on g8 and g2 will fall. 32.Re6 32.g3 Was necessary just to survive but the White king would still be in serious danger. Rdf8 Chess really is a tough game. 32... Qh1+ 33.Kg3 Rd2 Attacking g2. White has no perpetual to save him. 34.Re8+ Kh7 35.Qg8+ Kg6 The checks have evaporated and Black's attack should succeed. 33.Qd5 Kh7 34.Rxf6 The removal of a pair of rooks and Black's previous retreats mean finally White can breathe. Rxf6 35.Rxf5 Qh1+ It is now Black who must take a perpetual. 36.Kg3 Qe1+ 37.Kh3 Qh1+ 38.Kg3 Qe1+ 39.Kh3 Qh1+ 40.Kg3 Rg6+ 41.Rg5 Qe1+ 42.Kh3 Qh1+ 43.Kg3 A quite incredible game but we should not let the ultimate outcome of a draw obfuscate from the winning position this opening brought about. It's not the most exciting line in The Club Player's Dynamite but it is far

from toothless. The key idea is to make sure you get your king castled to safety before White can stand it in the centre which would lead to disaster. Then your quest for advantage will centre around having the bishop pair or at least a bishop for a knight in an open position. Model Games-Lokesh,N]

5...Ng4 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1

[7.Bf4 g5 8.Nxg5 (8.Bg3 h5 9.h3 h4) 8...d5 9.e6 (9.exd6 Bxg5 10.dxc7 Qf6 11.Qe2+ Kf8) 9...Bxg5 10.Qxg4 Bxe6 11.Bxg5 Bxg4 12.Bxd8 Rxd8]

7...d6 8.exd6 cxd6

[8...Qxd6 9.b3 0-0 10.Ba3 Qd8 11.Bxe7 Nxe7 12.Qxd4 Qxd4 13.Nxd4]

9.Nxd4

[9.h3 Nge5]

9...0-0 10.-- N,N-19.Rd2

[10.h3 d5 11.Nxc6 (11.Bb3 Bc5 12.c3 Black carries out a thematic plan that we encountered earlier in the chapter. Nxf2 13.Kxf2 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Qh4+ 15.Kf1 Bxd4 16.Be3!?

An interesting pawn sacrifice. Qf6+ 17.Kg1N

This multipurpose move targets the h2-pawn, while giving the king some space and ensuring that Nf6+ will not block the bishop. Black also enables his queen to move away from the h2-b8 diagonal without allowing White's queen to penetrate along it. Bxb2 18.Nd2 Black has excellent play for the pawn. Bxa1 19.Qxa1 (=+) Qxa1 is absolutely fine if Black wishes to play more solidly: 20.Rxa1 Re8 21.Kf2 Be6 1/2-1/2 Krueger - Simmelink, email 2003. 22.Nf3?! d4 (23...Qd8+!?N is also promising)

11...bxc6 12.hxg4 (12.Bd3 Nf6) 12...dxc4 13.Qf3 Be6 14.Qxc6 Bxg4 15.Qxc4 Be6 16.Qe2 Re8 17.Nc3 Bf6]

[10.Nc3?! was played in Luther - Tolnai, Budapest 1992, and now Bh4!N 11.g3 Bf6 would have won the a2-pawn. 12.Ndb5 ?!N is also unimpressive: a6 13.Nxd6 Nxf2

A) 14.Nxf7 Qxd1 15.Nxd1 Nxd1 16.Nd6+ Kh8

A1) 17.Rxd1 Bd4+ 18.Rxd4 (18.Kh1 Bg4; 18.Kg2 Rf2+ 19.Kh1 Bg4) 18...Nxd4 19.Nf7+ Kg8 20.Ng5+;

A2) 17.Nf7+;

B) 14.Qd5 Bd4 15.Qxf7+ (15.Nxf7 Nd3+ 16.Be3 Qxd5 17.Bxd5 Nxe1 18.Rxe1 Bf5 19.Bxd4 Nxd4 20.Re7 Bxc2 21.Rxb7 Nf5; 15.Re8 Qxe8 16.Nxe8 Be6 17.Qh5 Bg4 18.Nf6+ Bxf6 19.Qd5 Rad8 20.Kxf2 Rxd5 21.Nxd5 Bd4+) 15...Rxf7 16.Nxf7 Nd3+ 17.Kh1 Nf2+;

C) 14.Bxf7+ Kh8 15.Kxf2 Bd4+ 16.Kg2 Qxd6 17.Bf4 Qc5 18.Ne4 Qf5;

D) 14.Kxf2 Bd4+;

E) 14.--]

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4...Bc5 5.Nxc6 Qf6 6.Qd2

[6.Qf3 Qxf3 7.gxf3 bxc6 8.Be3 Bxe3 9.fxe3 d6 (9...Ne7) 10.Nc3 (10.Rg1 g6) 10...Nf6 11.Kf2 (11.0-0-0) 11...0-0 12.Rd1 Re8]

6...dxc6 7.Nc3

[7.Qf4 Be6 8.Nc3 0-0-0 9.Bd3 h6 (9...h5 10.0-0 h4 11.h3 Ne7 12.Qxf6 gxf6 13.Ne2 Rhg8)]

[7.Bd3 Be6]

7...Bd4 8.Bd3 Ne7

[8...Nh6 9.h3]
9.0-0 Ng6 10.Kh1

[10.Ne2

A) 10...Bxb2! 11.Bxb2 Qxb2 12.f4
This was Kovalenko - Kazhgaleyev,
St Petersburg 2009, and now Qa3N
13.f5 Ne5 14.Qg5 Bd7+
leads to a serious advantage for
Black. (14...Qf8 15.f6 Qc5+
16.Kh1 g6);

B) 10...Bb6]

10...Ne5 11.Be2

[11.f4 Ng4 12.Qe1 (12.Nd1 Nxb2)
12...Nxb2 reaches a nice position for
Black. (12...Bd7) 13.Kxb2?
once again runs into Qh6+!
when White gets an even worse
version of the previous line: 14.Kg3
Qg6+]

11...Ng4 12.Nd1 Qd6 This is a logical
follow-up to the earlier ...a5 move.

[12...Be6! when the pressure on the
c4-pawn is quite annoying for White,
and]

13.Bxg4

[13.g3 h5 14.c3 Bb6 15.Qg5 Qe5
16.f3 The endgame was balanced in
Romanishin - Sargissian, Aix-les-
Bains 2011. Another option is
16...Qxg5!?N 17.Bxg5 Ne5]

[13.f4 Nxb2!= followed by ...b6.
(13...h5 occurred in Hernandez -
Archangelsky, Hoogeveen 2001. Here
Black should have continued with the
natural)]

13...Bxg4 14.-- N,N-11.b3

[14.c3 Bf6 15.Qxd6 cxd6]

[14.Qg5 Qg6]

²⁵ **6.Nf5** Kf8 7.Ne3 Nf6 8.g3 d5
9.exd5 Ne5 10.Bg2 Bc5 11.0-0 h5
12.h4 Ng4 13.Nxg4 Nxg4 14.Qe2
Qd6 15.Nd2 Qxg3 16.Nf3 Bd7 17.Be3

Bxe3 18.fxe3 Re8 19.e4 Rh6 20.Rae1
Rf6 21.c4 Bf5 22.e5 Black to play.
22...Rxe5! This rook is immune from
capture because the f3-knight has
to keep guarding h2. 23.Nxe5

[This allows an immediate mate, but
after other moves White is also lost,
for example: 23.Qd2 Bd3! 24.Qxd3
Rxf3! 25.Rxf3 (25.Qxf3 Qh2#)
25...Rxe1+ 26.Rf1 Qh2#]

23...Qh2# 0-1 (23) Abuev,R-
Kingscrusher 1-50

²⁶ **8.0-0** Nf6 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Nd2 h6
11.Bh4 Re8 12.Re1 Nh7 13.Bxe7
Qxe7 14.Qf3 Ng5 15.Qe3 Ne6 16.e5
d5 17.Nf3 c5 18.Bf5 Bb7 19.Rad1 d4
20.cxd4 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Nxd4 22.Qe4
Rab8 23.b3 Rb4 24.Bh3 Qg5 25.Qd5
a5 26.Rd3 c6 27.Qxc5 Ne6 28.Bxe6
Rxe6 29.g3 Rg4 30.Qc2 h5 31.Red1
g6 32.Rd8+ Kg7 33.Rc8 Qxe5
34.Rdd8 h4 35.Rg8+ Kf6 36.f4 Qe3+
37.Kg2 Black to play. 37...Rxb3+!

[37...hxg3 also wins, although not
immediately,]

[But 37...h3+? 38.Kxb3 leads to a
draw.]

38.hxg3 Qxg3+ 39.Kf1 Re1#
0-1 (39) Shiri,K-Kingscrusher
201-250

²⁷ **3...Nf6** 4.0-0 Bd6 5.d3 Ne7 6.Nc3
c6 7.Bc4 Bc7 8.d4 exd4 9.Nxd4 0-0
10.Bd3 d5 11.exd5 Nexd5 12.Nxd5
Nxd5 13.Qh5 g6 14.Qh6 Nf6 15.Nf3
Ng4 16.Qg5 Qd6 17.g3 f6 18.Bc4+
Kg7 19.Qh4 Re8 20.Bf4 Ne5 21.Qh6+
Kh8 22.Bxe5 fxe5 23.Ng5 Qe7 24.Bf7
1-0 (24) Stephenson,H-Lean,R
Hastings Town Hall 1921 EXT 2017
[ChessBase]

²⁸ **6.Nxe5?** Nxb3 7.axb3 Qg5
6.0-0 d6 7.d4 Nxb3 8.axb3 f6
 9.Nc3 Bb7 10.Nh4 Ne7 11.dxe5 dxe5
 12.Qf3 Qd7 13.Rd1 Qe6 14.Nd5
 Boleslavsky's well-known idea (vol
 3: 1957-1970)
 [14.Be3 g5 (14...h5 15.h3 g5)
 15.Nxb5 axb5 16.Qh5+ Qf7
 17.Rxa8+ Bxa8 18.Rd8+ Kxd8
 19.Qxf7 gxh4 20.Qxf6 Rg8 21.f3 h3
 22.g3 Ke8 23.Qxe5 Rg6 24.Qxb5+
 Bc6 25.Qb8+ Kf7 26.Qxc7 Rf6
 27.Bg5 Re6 28.b4 Kg8 29.Qb8 Ng6
 30.Kf2 Ne5 31.b5 Be8 32.Be3 Bd6
 33.Qc8 Kf7 34.b6 Rf6 35.Bf4 Bd7
 36.b7 Be6 37.Bxe5 Bxe5 38.b8Q
 Bxc8 39.Qxe5]
 14...Nxd5
 [14...0-0-0 15.c4]
 15.exd5 Qf7 16.c4 Rogozenko,Dorian:
 "!"
 [16.Nf5 g6 17.Nh6 Bxh6 18.Bxh6
 g5 (18...0-0-0 19.c4 Rd7) 19.h4
 (19.Qh3 Rg8) 19...gxh4]
 16...Be7
 [16...g6 17.Qe2 Bg7 18.f4 0-0-0
 19.fxe5 fxe5 20.Nf3 h6 21.Be3]
 17.Nf5 Rd8
 [17...0-0 18.Bh6]
 18.Be3 Rogozenko,Dorian: '±' 18...g6
 [18...Bc8 19.c5 Bxf5 20.Qxf5 Rxd5
 (20...0-0) 21.Qc8+]
 19.Nh6
 [19.Nxe7 Qxe7]
 19...Qg7 20.Qg3
 [20.cxb5 f5 21.bxa6 Ba8 22.Qh3±
 1-0 Costantini,R (2329)-Sciortino,M
 (2219)/Montecatini Terme 2002 (41)
 f4± 23.Bd2 Bg5 24.Ng4 h5
 25.Nxe5]
 20...Bc8 21.h4 Rogozenko,Dorian: "!"
 21...Bd6 22.Qf3 Be7
 [22...Rf8 23.c5± 1-0 Stein,L-Veresov,

G/Moscow 1963 (42) Be7!? 24.d6]
 23.Rac1
 [23.d6!? cxd6 (23...Bxd6 24.c5 Be7
 25.Qc6+ Bd7 26.Qxc7) 24.cxb5±
 axb5 Rogozenko,Dorian 25.Bb6 Qxh6
 26.Bxd8 Bxd8 27.Ra8]
 23...bxc4 24.bxc4 Rf8 25.c5 f5 26.Bg5
 Bxg5 27.hxg5 Qe7 28.Qg3 f4
 Rogozenko,Dorian: "!" 29.Qh4 e4
 Rogozenko,Dorian 30.d6 Qe5
 31.dxc7 Rxd1+
 [31...Qxc7 32.Ng4 Bxg4 33.Qxg4
 Rf5 34.b4 e3 35.fxe3 Qe5 36.exf4
 Qe3+ 37.Kh2 Qxf4+ 38.Qxf4±
 1-0 Ivkov,B (2520)-Macskasy,E/Tel
 Aviv 1964 (35) Rxf4!? 39.Re1+ Kf7
 40.Ra1 Re8 Setin-Veresov 1963
 41.Rec1 Rogozenko,Dorian Rxb4±
 42.Rxa6± Rogozenko,Dorian Rg4
 Rogozenko,Dorian 43.c6 Rc8
 44.Ra7+ Ke6 45.Rxh7± Rxg5]
 32.Rxd1 e3
 [32...Qxc7 33.Ng4 Bxg4 34.Qxg4±
 Rf5 Rogozenko,Dorian 35.b4]
 33.Rd8+ Ke7 34.Ng8+= Rxg8
 Rogozenko,Dorian 35.Rxg8 Be6
 36.c8Q exf2+± Botvinnik ♠37.Qxf2±
 (Rogozenko,Dorian) Botvinnik
 37...Bxc8 Rogozenko,Dorian 38.Rxc8
 ½-½ (38) Krutikhin,Y-Botvinnik,M
 Moscow 1963 EXT 2017 [Karoly,
 Tibor]

²⁹ **8.d4** d6 9.Bg5+ Nf6 10.f4 Ke8
 11.0-0 Be7
 [11...dxe5 12.fxe5 h6 13.Bh4 g5
 14.exf6 gxh4 15.Qh5+ Kd7
 16.Qd5+]
 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nf3 Nc4 14.e5 dxe5
 15.fxe5 Bg5
 [15...Ne3 16.Qd3 Nxf1 17.exf6!
 ♠e4+]
 16.Qe2 Bb7 17.Nc3 Ne3

[17...Nxb2 18.Nxb5!]
 18.Rfe1 Rf8 19.d5 Nxd5 20.Rad1 Be7
 21.Qe4 c6 22.Qxh7 Bc5+ 23.Kh1 Qe7
 24.Ne4 Kd7 25.Nxc5+ Qxc5 26.Qxg7+
 Qe7 27.Qg4+ Qe6 28.Qd4 Rg8 29.b3
 Kc7 30.c4 Nb6 31.Qd6+! Qxd6
 32.exd6+ Kb8 33.c5 Nd5 34.Ne5 Ka7
 35.Rxd5! cxd5 36.c6 Bxc6
 [36...Bc8 37.d7  f7]
 37.Nxc6+ Kb6 38.Ne7 Rge8
 [38...Rgd8]
 39.d7 Red8 40.Nxd5+ Kc5 41.Nc7
 Rxd7 42.Nxa8 Kb4 43.h3 Rd2 44.Ra1
 Ka3 45.Nc7 Kb2 46.Rf1 Kxa2 47.Nxa6
 Kxb3 48.Nc7 b4 49.Na6 Kc3 50.Rf3+
 1-0 (50) Spiridonov,N-Havansi,E
 Helsinki 1961 EXT 2001
 [ChessBase II]

³⁰ **8.h3** h6 9.Re1 Nh7 10.d4 Ba7
 11.Be3 Qf6 12.Na3 Re8 13.dxe5 Nxe5
 14.Nxe5 Rxe5 In this game, we are
 going to see another fearsome
 tactician, Hungarian GM Sax
 utilizing the concept of a misplaced
 piece very differently from the last
 example. Black has just recaptured
 (incorrectly) with the rook on e5.
 White immediately recognized this
 as a mistake and set about
 exploiting the weak aspects of the
 Black position. How would you play
 this as White? Recapturing with
 the queen 14...Qxe5 is also wrong
 as it allows White to take immediate
 action in the center with tempo. 15.
 Nc4 Qf6 16.Bxa7 Rxa7 17.e5!
 dxe5 18.Nxe5 Rxe5 19.Rxe5
 Qxe5 20.Qd8+ Nf8 21.Qxc8 and
 White has a significant advantage
 due to the dual threats of Qb8 and
 Rd1-d8. The only way to fight for
 central control is 14...dxe5 when

all three results are on the table and
 Black has Ng5 and Rd8 ideas to
 count on. 15.Bxa7 Forcing the rook
 onto a7 is definitely awkward for
 Black. It does happen a fair bit in
 this line but Black usually has the
 time to reroute the rook. Sax saw
 deeper. 15...Rxa7 Misplaced piece
 located! This time, however, it is
 truly a temporary circumstance and
 our response needs to be far more
 dynamic. In my game, Black had no
 realistic chance to relocate the b6-
 knight but here it is a different story
 and White needs to play
 energetically. What did Sax play
 here? 16.Nc4 White also had a
 slightly misplaced piece so this
 move is definitely a solid choice. It
 reroutes the knight and kicks out
 the rook from e5 with a tempo.
 16...Re8 It is clear to see that the white
 army is cooperating really well,
 while Black has a misplaced rook
 and a misplaced knight. Once again,
 the only way to retain and increase
 our advantage is to play
 aggressively! 17.e5 An excellent
 pawn sacrifice, aiming to open up
 the position and allow White to
 utilize his better piece mobility.
 17...dxe5 Black accepts the offer in the
 absence of good alternatives. Can
 you demonstrate the idea behind
 the sacrifice? 18.Nxe5 A superb
 second sacrifice, which again, is
 highlighting the poor coordination
 among the black pieces. 18...Be6
 Black is seemingly defending well
 and in fact is just one move away
 from playing R7a8, normalizing the
 position. It is, however, White's
 move and it is our time to strike.

Can you spot the winning sequence? 19.Nxf7 A superb move that wins by force! 19...Qxf7 The most obvious response, after which accurate play is still very much required by White. How did Sax continue the onslaught? 19...Bxf7 20.Rxe8+ is obviously unplayable. The other recapture 19...Kxf7 is also bound to fail. 20.Rxe6 Rxe6 21.Qd7+ Qe7 22.Bxe6+ Kf8 23.Qc8+ Qe8 24.Qxc7 Qxe6 25.Qb8+ and Black loses material. 20.Rxe6 Rxe6 A truly picturesque position in the sense that technically ALL black pieces are misplaced! That said, the finish off blow still needs to be found! 21.Qd8+ Black has no good way to deal with the check. 21...Nf8 This move allows Sax to demonstrate the core idea of the combination. 21...Qf8 22.Bxe6+ Kh8 23.Qxc7 is less fancy but equally winning! 22.Qb8 A beautiful touch. The misplaced rook gets trapped whereas the other one is still caught in the tangle of the pin. A lovely game! Sax has wonderfully modeled how to exploit misplaced pieces in a very dynamic and tactical environment. 3b. Positional – Misplaced -Gyula Sax vs. Branko Rogulj,C

an endgame. This endgame scores very well for Black in practice. If White decides to push the pawn to d5, we will have similar ideas to our previous lines. Usually, we will go for setups with ...g6 followed by ...Bg7. Here is my recommendation against the Scotch. We will go for easy setups where ideas are more important than memorization. With this move, we ask White to trade on e5 and reach an endgame. This endgame scores very well for Black in practice. If White decides to push the pawn to d5, we will have similar ideas to our previous lines. Usually, we will go for setups with ...g6 followed by ...Bg7. 4.Nc3

[4.d5 Nb8 We will reroute our knight to d7. Here, the play will be similar to what I will recommend in the next chapter. For instance, the game could continue: 5.c4 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be2 Nd7 8.0-0 Ne7 9.Ne1 White reroutes his knight to d3. f5 We breakthrough and are ready to continue in King's Indian Style. 8) 3.Nf3 - Scotch Transposition - 3.Nf3 - Scotch Transposition]

[4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 In this endgame, we have different ideas: - If allowed, we would like to get the bishop pair advantage. - If not, we want to get rid of our f8-bishop and play against Whites bad bishop (f1-bishop) The model games will show you how to realize those plans in practice.

A) 6.Bc4 The main continuation. White develops his bishop and attacks our f7-pawn. f6 We defend our e5-pawn and take control over

3...e5 can be met in a number of ways, including straightforward development: Here is my recommendation against the Scotch. We will go for easy setups where ideas are more important than memorization. With this move, we ask White to trade on e5 and reach

the g5-square. 7.Be3 Na5 We want to misplace the strong c4-bishop. (7...Bb4+ With this move, Black aimed at trading his worst piece via ...Bb4+-...Ba5-...Bb6. 7...Na5 is my recommendation. 8.Nbd2 Ba5 9.0-0-0 Bb6 10.Nb3+ 10.Bxb6 axb6 11.Nb1+ The knight will go on c3. White has no problems. Ke8 11.Nc5 Nh6 We are already familiar with this idea. The knight is going to d6 via h6-f7-d6. 12.h3 12.Bxh6 gxh6 Nf7 13.c3 Nd6 14.Bd3 Nd8 Black now improves his other knight. 15.Nd2 Ne6 16.Ndb3 Ke7 16...a5 Taking space with ideas like ...a5-a4-a3 is interesting. 17.Rhe1 g5 Black takes space on the queenside. 18.f3 Nf4 The g2-pawn is under attack. 19.Bf1 White defends the pawn. 19.Bxf4?? gxf4 would be a big mistake. Black would have the bishop pair advantage and would target the g2-pawn next. h5 Black wants to fix the g2-pawn. 20.a4 White wants to harass the bishop. 20.h4 It was necessary to prevent Black from fixing the pawn as a weakness. 20...gxh4 21.Bxf4 exf4 22.Rd4!! White will continue with e5. h4 Black continues with his plan. Now, White will have problems with his g2-pawn. And the White bishop on f1 has turned into a bad piece. 21.Rd2 Be6 The ideal scenario for Black would be to reach an endgame with a good knight against a bad bishop. 22.Nxe6 Nxe6 23.Na1 Bxe3 24.Rxe3 Rhd8 Black continues with his plan and wants to trade

rooks on the d-file. 25.Re1 a5 26.b3 Nc5 26...c6 is best 27.Red1 c6 28.Kb2 f5 29.exf5 Nxf5 30.Nc2 Rxd2 31.Rxd2 Rd8 32.Rxd8 Kxd8 Black has a superior endgame. 33.Ka3 Ne6 34.Bd3 Ne7 Of course, Black doesn't want to exchange his strong knight for White's bad bishop. 35.Ne3 Nf4 36.Bf1 Ned5 Black attacks the c3-pawn and would like to trade a pair of knights. 37.Nc4 White avoids the trade and counterattacks the a5-pawn. 37.Nd1 although passive, was necessary to protect the c3 pawn. Nxc3 Unfortunately for White, the a5-pawn is untouchable. 38.Kb2 38.Nxa5 Nb1+ 39.Kb2 Nd2 and White's position collapses. Ncd5 39.Kc1 39.Nxa5? Ne3 b5 Too hasty. Black could have improved his worst piece (his king) first before taking concrete actions. 39...b6 Protecting the a5-pawn followed by Ke7-Kf6-Kf5 was best. 40.axb5 cxb5 41.Nxe5 Ke7 42.Kd2 42.Bxb5 Nxg2 43.Kd2 White should hold this endgame. a4 Black creates an outside passed pawn. 42...Kd6 43.bxa4 bxa4 44.Nc4 Kd7 45.Ke1 Kc6 46.Kf2 Kc5 47.g3 Nh5 48.gxh4 gxh4 49.Nd2 Nh4 50.Nb1 Kb4 51.Nd2 a3 52.Bc4 Nxh3+ 53.Ke1 Nh4 Black pawns decide the game. 54.Ba2 Nc3 55.Bc4 h3 This game shows how it is possible to fight for a win in this endgame. We should exchange the right pieces and fight against White's bad bishop. If your opponents play without a plan while you have one,

they have no chance. 9) 3.Nf3: Model Games-Kavcic,Z) 8.Be2 Be6 Our bishop replaces White's one on the diagonal. 9.Nbd2 White wants to castle long next. g6 We want to trade our bad bishop via ...Bh6. 10.0-0-0 Ke7 Our king is fine on e7. It can move to f7 if necessary. We will continue with our plan next. This endgame is equal but not a draw yet. We should fight and try to outplay our opponents. Practicing such positions is beneficial for the development of core skills. For this reason, we should be happy to have such lines in our repertoire :CC EndBracket CC 8) 3.Nf3 - Scotch Transpositi-3.Nf3 - Scotch Transposition;

B) 6.Bb5 Bd6 We defend our pawn. 7.Bxc6 The most common move. White give us the bishop pair advantage in exchange for doubling our pawns. bxc6 The doubled pawns have control of important squares. 8.Nc3 Nf6 We continue our development. Next, we have ideas like ...Ke7, ...h6, ...Be6, ...a5, ...Rb8 etc. 9.Bg5 The most common move. White is ready to take on f6 and give us a second pair of doubled pawns. Ke7 We can recapture on f6 with the king. 10.0-0-0 h6 We ask the bishop a question. 8) 3.Nf3 - Scotch Transpositi-3.Nf3 - Scotch Transposition]

[4.Bc4 This move is quite common in club players' games because it puts pressure on the f7-pawn. However, it is not dangerous if we know how to face it. If not equal, we will end up slightly better or winning most of the

time. Nf6 We continue our development. We are not afraid of the ...Ng5-idea. 5.Ng5 White doesn't waste time and targets our weakness on f7. d5 We strike in the center immediately. 6.exd5 6.dxe5 Nxe5 brings nothing because the c4-bishop is under attack Nxd4 7.c3 White wants to kick our knight immediately. (7.d6 White is ready to take on f7. Qxd6 8.Bxf7+ The only way to capture on f7! 8.Nxf7?? Qc6! and White is lost. Ke7 White has to retreat his bishop because ...h6 is coming. 9.Bb3 9.Bc4 is a mistake because of 9...Qc6! and Black is winning. 9.c3 h6 10.cxd4 hxg5 and Black is better. Nxb3 We grab the bishop. Black has no problems in this endgame and will enjoy the bishop pair's advantage. 8) 3.Nf3 - Scotch Transpositi-3.Nf3 - Scotch Transposition) 7...Nf5 From f5, the knight controls the d6-square. We are ready to continue with ...h6 and ...Nd6. 8.d6 White continue to exert pressure on the f7-pawn. (8.0-0 h6 We oust White's knight. 9.Nf3 e4 Again! Black is already slightly better. For instance, the game could continue: 10.Re1 White tries to take advantage of the pin. But it is not dangerous at all. Bc5 We are ready to castle and to put our knight on d6. 8) 3.Nf3 - Scotch Transpositi-3.Nf3 - Scotch Transposition) 8...Nxd6 9.Nxf7 9...Nxf7 10.Bxf7+ and Black is lost Qd7 We are not afraid to lose the a8-rook because White's bishop is under attack. 10.Nxd6+ The only move. 10.Nxe5 Qe7 followed by ...Nxc4 10.Nxh8 Nxc4 and White's knight is trapped Bxd6 Next, we can

continue with ...Qf5/...Qe7, ...Bd7-c6.
8) 3.Nf3 - Scotch Transpositi-3.Nf3 - Scotch Transposition]

[4.Bb5 The second most common move. exd4 5.Qxd4 Bd7 We break the pin 6.Bxc6 White gives the bishop to avoid losing time retreating the queen. Bxc6 7.Nc3 The most common continuation. (7.Bg5 Be7 Again, we invite White to take a pawn. 8.Qxg7 Bf6 9.Qxh8 Bxh8 10.Bxd8 Bxb2 11.Bxc7 Kd7 11...Bxa1 12. Bxd6 Bxe4 is also possible 12.Ba5 Bxa1 Everything was forced until now. 13.Bc3 White doesn't want to let us with the bishop pair advantage. Bxc3+ 14.Nxc3 Nf6 The e4-pawn will fall next. 8) 3.Nf3 - Scotch Transpositi-3. Nf3 - Scotch Transposition; 7.0-0 Be7 We sacrifice a pawn to open the g-file and target White's king. 8.Qxg7 If White doesn't take the pawn, we just continue our development. Bf6 9.Qg4 With his last move, White wants to prevent our plan: ...Qd7, ...O-O-O, ...Ne7, followed ...Rg8. Qd7 But we play it anyway! 10.Qxd7+ Kxd7 We are a pawn down, but we have the bishop pair and the open g-file. White also has problems with his e4 and b2-pawns. For instance, the game could continue: 11.Re1 Re8 12.Nbd2 Bg7 The bishop frees the f6-square for the knight. 13.Rb1 Nf6 The e4-pawn will fall next. For instance, the game could continue 14.Nd4 Bxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Nf5 Bf6 with an equal endgame 8) 3.Nf3 - Scotch Transpositi-3.Nf3 - Scotch Transposition) 7...Be7 We sacrifice a pawn for activity. Starting with 7...Nf6 is also possible. 8.Qxg7 If White doesn't take the pawn, we have no

problems after ...Nf6 and ...O-O. Bf6 9.Qg3 Qd7 Our plan is simple: ...O-O-O, ...Ne7 and ...Rg8. For instance, the game could continue: 10.Nd5 Bxd5 11.exd5 0-0-0 12.0-0 Ne7 White is a pawn up, but we have an attack along the g-file. 8) 3.Nf3 - Scotch Transpositi-3.Nf3 - Scotch Transposition]

4...Bg4 5.Bb5 The pin increase the pressure against e5 and White should embrace, not fear, both exchanges at Black's disposal: 5...exd4 6.Qxd4 Bxf3 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.gxf3 is a very pleasant edge for White.

Rg1 will increase the pressure against g7 and White simply wants to go Be3 and O-O-O, after which Qc4 or Qa4 might prove rather awkward with ...Qd7 running into e5, exploiting the line-up of queen and opposing rook on the d-file. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #28

3...Bg4 I faced this a lot in simuls where the players are just making their first chess steps. It's pretty terrible. This pin is somewhat premature compared to 3...Nf6 4. Nc3 Bg4. pins, but White should be happy to advance and raise Black in the central stakes: is well met by the direct To this pin, which is usually played, we have a powerful answer. The most played move in this position. In case White has done his homework, he can try the next exotic variation. 4.d5 Just gaining time. The most natural reply happens to fail spectacularly, which is a nice added bonus. White has several good alternatives that give him a big advantage such as 4.

c3 , 4.Be3 and 4.Nc3 We attack the knight on c6 and provoke Black to attack our pinned knight again. Attacking the Knight. 4...Ne5 Better is to drop back to b8, but after that normal development it is enough for White to 'remember'. That's exactly what we wanted! Attacking the pinned Knight on f3 twice.

[4...Nb8 is safer, but 5.h3 leaves White ahead in the development and space stakes. He may quickly exploit those features with e5 or Bxf3 6.Qxf3 Nf6 7.Nc3 White intends an attractive, aggressive set-up involving Be3, g4 and O-O-O and not only Black must take care not to get squashed, but with the timing of any central counter: e5 8.dxe6 fxe6 9.e5 certainly won't do, crippling his light squares and structure after 9...dxe5 10.Qxb7 Nbd7 11.Bc4 . Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #26]

5.Nxe5 This is a thematic trick. At the end of the line Black is in bad shape. The following complications are not that simple to learn, but White is close to winning and you get to bash out some cool moves ! is a very strong, temporary queen sacrifice. After the following forced sequence of moves Boom! This queen sacrifice has long been known to significantly favour White: After this brilliant queen sacrifice, we will soon get back the sacrificed material with interest. Capturing the Knight in the center, sacrificing the Queen!! 5...Bxd1 In case of 5...dxe6.Qxg4+-Black is simply a piece down. 6.Bb5+ That's our

point: Black cannot handle this check in a reasonable way. A forcing check. 6...c6 This solution to the problem is only temporary. The obvious reply. 7.dxc6 Wow, quite a cool position. Note that White is threatening both c6-c7+ and c6xb7+ White is now threatening to end the game with 7...-- 8.cxb7 Qd7 9.bxa8=Q checkmate! Now we threaten either c6-c7+ with check and winning the queen, or taking on b7 (again with check) and an attack on the rook. Since Black cannot take well on c6, he has to come up with something else. Threatening c7 with a discovered check. 7...Qa5+ 7...a6 is the only other move, but then 8.c7+ gives us a winning endgame. That is the most demanding move to meet. is Black's most natural move. White is winning after Black brings the queen out of danger with check and attacks our bishop. However, this defensive measure still doesn't solve the problems.

[7...a6 7...b6?? loses on the spot to 8.c7 Qd7 9.Bxd7 Checkmate! is the grim alternative for Black, immediately returning the extra queen: Black's best reply. 7...Qa5+ does complicate things a lot. White should respond with 8.Nc3 CC StartBracket CC +2. 5CC EndBracket CC . A possible continuation is 8...O-O-O 9.Nc4 Qb4 10.a3 Qc5 11.Be3 Qh5 CC StartBracket CC +3. 0CC EndBracket CC . Make sure to check this extremely complicated position with an engine before playing

it in a real game! 8.c7+ comes with check, ensuring White will win Black's queen. Discovered check while attacking Black's Queen. axb5 9.cxd8Q+ Promoting to a new Queen. Rxd8 10.Nxf7 Sacrificing the Knight while forking both Rooks is a better continuation than 10.Kxd1 dxe5

CC StartBracket CC +1.
0CC EndBracket CC . Kxf7 11.Kxd1
And White is a pawn up with the better pawn structure on top. 11. Alekhines and Rare Lines-Alekhines Rare Lines
The smoke has cleared and White ended up with an extra pawn and the superior pawn structure. White is a clear pawn ahead and shouldn't face any real problems completing development, as with Re1 and Nd2-f3, while a timely a4 may pose some problems for Black. Dust has settled. White is a pawn up and Black's pawn structure is ruined

CC StartBracket CC +1.
5CC EndBracket CC . The whole sequence is very similar as the sequence in the Scandinavian Defense, Mieses-Kotrč Variation]

8.Nc3 Now with the Black Queen on a5 our main threat is to take on b7. blocking the check and thus renewing the threat of cxb7. We parried both threats and still have strong threats of our own. 8...a6

[8...0-0-0 This is the toughest nut to crack again. 9.Nc4 A dream position for White, who enjoys a strong initiative. Thanks to the strong possibility of Nd5 and c7 Black's queen can't really retreat, but even going forwards doesn't especially help him due to some forcing play:

A) 9...Qb4 Going back with 9...

Qc7 runs into 10.Nd5 Qb8 when 11.c7+- is lights out. 10.a3 Qc5 11.Be3 bring out the bishop with tempo and gives White a decisive advantage. Next up are cxb7 followed by Rxd1 when White's minor pieces are all over Black's position. Qh5 With all White's pieces on good squares, it's now time to expose the black king: 12.cxb7+ Kxb7 13.Rxd1
White has a winning attack here ! We have two pieces and a pawn for the Queen, but once you spot the idea Na5+, followed by Rd1-d4-b4 !, it becomes obvious that Black is out of defences. 11. Alekhines and Rare Lines-Alekhines Rare Lines (13.Na5+ Wherever the king retreats to, White will recapture on d1, leaving him with two pieces and a pawn for the queen - and especially a huge attack. Just contrast the difference between the number of attackers and defenders on the queenside! One major attacking idea will be Rd1-d4 or Rd5: 13...Ka8 14.Rxd1 e6 14...e5? 15.Bc6+ Kb8 16.Nb5! when there just isn't a defense due to 16...a6 17.Ba7+ Kc8 18.Rd3! , and if 18...axb5 19.Rc3 Rd7 20. Bb6! Rc7 21.Bb7+ . We should probably stop the line here, but it's hard not to enjoy such a dream attacking scenario: 21...Kd7 22. Rxc7+ Ke6 23.Bd5+ Kf6 and now White can do even better than exchange on f7: 24.g4! , winning the bishop on f8 for starters or simply killing the black king, as with 24...Qg6 25.h4! Qxg4 26.Rxf7+ Kg6 27.h5+ Kh6 28.Be3+ . 15.

Nc6 Rd7 16.Rd4! White simply wants to go Ra4 and remove the a-pawn, and even challenging the knight on c6 doesn't especially help Black: 16...Ne7 17.Rb4! followed by Be2 or 17...Qxb5 18.Nxb5 Nxc6 19.Rc4 with a clear extra pawn and ongoing initiative.);

B) 9...Qc7 10.Nd5 Bxc2 11.Nxc7 Kxc7 12.cxb7 Bxe4 13.Be3
 11. Alekhines and Rare Lines-Alekhines Rare Lines]

[8...bxc6 Now we're going to collect loads of material. 9.Bxc6+ Kd8 10.Nxf7+ Kc8 11.Bxa8 We already have rook, knight and two pawns for the sacrificed queen. And since Black will definitely lose more material, we have a winning position. ing position. 48) Rare openings: 1...Nf6 & - Nimzowitsch Defense Nc6]

9.b4 This is the clincher. Now after 9... Qxb4 10.cxb7+ axb5 the queen no longer defends the a8-rook and we mate with 11.bxa8=Q . 15) Black's Early Alternative-1...Nc6 with 2...d6 #1 Extremely important to remember ! 9...Qxb5

[9...Qd8 10.c7+ This is now very similar to 7... a6. axb5 11.cxd8Q+ Rxd8 12.Nxf7 Kxf7 13.Kxd1 And White is a pawn up with a good position. 11. Alekhines and Rare Lines-Alekhines Rare Lines]

10.Nxb5 axb5 11.cxb7 Rb8 12.Nc6 Rxb7 13.Kxd1 And Black is busted again. 11. Alekhines and Rare Lines-Alekhines Rare Lines

³² **4.c3 g6**

[4...Nxe4? 5.d5]

[4...Bg4]

[4...e5]

5.Bd3 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.a4

[7.Be3 e5 8.Nbd2 (8.d5)]

7...Bg4 8.a5 a6 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 e5 11.d5 Ne7 12.c4 Nd7 13.Nc3 f5 14.b4 fxe4 15.Qxe4 Nf5

³³ **4...e5** challenges in the centre, but doesn't have an especially good reputation in part because White can now take play away from the Four Knights Game and into the waters of the Ruy Lopez, Steinitz Defence: 5.Bb5 followed by O-O has been known for well over one hundred years to give White a pleasant edge. If you prefer something independent, you may prefer to play as we did against the Black Lion: 5.dxe5 dxe5 6.Qxd8+

Kxd8 is the poor version of the Philidor, because now Black can never play ...c7-c6 and ...Kc7. We will immediately target him on the open files and diagonals. is less common. Here we are denied our favourite f4 push, but White enjoys easy development and should aim to exploit the knight's position on c6 by targeting the d5 point: 7.Bg5 The threat is Nd5, of course. There is no need to analyze this position in depth, it's just bad. For instance, after the most popular White threatens Nd5, as well as O-O-O+, and already enjoys the initiative: for example, 7...Be7

[7...h6 8.0-0-0+ Bd6 9.Bh4 g5 fails to remember that Nd5 is very much an aim of White's: 10.Nxg5 hxg5 11.Bxg5 Ke7 12.Nd5+ wins. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2... d6 #19]

8.Bb5 We are threatening to take on c6

and win the e5-pawn, and Black cannot do much about that. 8...Bd7 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.Nxe5 The e4-pawn is untouchable because we are threatening a fork Nxf7+, winning that rook on h8. Black is just a pawn down, and his king is bad. 24) Sidelines - Theory-Sidelines Nc6

4...a6 rules out Bb5 at the cost of a tempo. If you're now happy with steady development, we should point out that White has done well with 5. h3, echoing Black's own approach. It's also possible to be more aggressive and advance in the centre: 5.d5 Nb8

[5...Ne5 6.Nxe5 dxe5 7.f4 echoes our approach against the Black Lion to seize an early initiative, something which counts for more than the undoubling of Black's pawns. After Qd6 8.Qf3 White's position is already very pleasant with fxe5 Qxe5; Bf4 on the way and simple development with Bd3 and O-O on the cards too **CC** StartBracket **CC** White may well, of course, also go long **CC** EndBracket **CC**. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #21]

6.Be3 Simple development. 6.e5 dxe5 7.Nxe5 e6! seems fine for Black. 6...g6 A fianchetto is Black's normal approach. Otherwise, 6...e5 7.dxe6!? Bxe6 8.Nd4 would free the f-pawn for duty, and 6...Ng4 7.Bf4 will simply gain time after h3 and perhaps even g4 too. 7.Qd2 White copies the 150 Attack approach against the Pirc, but in a position where Black has lost two tempi. He is ready to meet ...Bg7 with Bh6 and meanwhile can shore

up e4 with Bd3, not least after ...b5 from Black. White may castle on either side, depending on Black's approach: for example, 7...b5 8.Bd3 Bg7 9.Bh6 0-0 Now 10.a4 to challenge and force concessions on the queenside is tempting, but so is 10.h4 with dangerous attacking chances. 10...Bg4 aims to cover the h5-square, but actually fails to prevent the key advance: 11.h5 Bxh5 12.Nd4 White simply threatens f3 and g4, and even 12...b4 13.Nce2 Bxe2 14.Bxe2!? leaves Black in all sorts of trouble: 14...Nxe4 14...Bh8!? might be relatively best, but here White can even continue to offer the e-pawn as bait with 15. f4!? or simply go 15.Bxf8 Qxf8 16.Qxb4 Nxe4 17.Ne6! 15.Qe3 Bxd4 15...Nf6? 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Qh6+ Kg8 18.g4 is a killer. 16.Qxd4 Nf6 17.O-O-O White spurns the exchange and simply wants to go Qh4 followed by g4, possibly Be3, and g5, with f4-f5, if somehow needed, another way of increasing the pressure. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #20

³⁴ **5.d5** Nb8 6.Bg5 [6.Be2 Bg7 James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: 'This is still the move Black needs to play – and now he actually can, as my computer explained to me a few years ago.' 7.0-0 0-0± and it's quite obvious that the Black queen is misplaced at b6, and regarding the c5 pawn, some real problems might arise.

A) 8.Be3 Bg4 (8...c6 9.a4 a5̄ White did not have a lot to show for the sacrificed pawn in Vera Ruiz -

Sgherri, email 2011. 10.h3N Na6 11.Bxa6 would be great for White if he had time to consolidate, so it's important that we have Rxa6! 12.Qd2 Ra8 13.Rad1 Re8 when Black is not worse. 14.Bd4 Qc7 15.Rfe1; 8...a5 9.a4 Na6; 8...Bg4) 9.h3 (9.Nd2 is really asking for trouble. Bxe2 10.Qxe2 is also unclear. Re8 11.f4 e6; 9.Nd4 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 is highly unclear. Generally I prefer the pieces to the queen, but here it is not so easy for White to coordinate. c5 This is the safer, less complicated option. 11.Nf3 Qb6 12.Rab1 Qa6 13.Qd2 Ng4 14.Bg5 Re8; 9.Ng5 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 c6 11.Rad1 Qa5 12.f4 Qa6 13.Qf3 Nbd7; 9.Qd2 c6 10.Rad1 Qa5 11.a3 Rc8 12.b4 Black had slightly the better of the endgame in Chupin - Berza, email 2004. Qc7?! 13.Bd4 Nbd7 14.Rfe1 a5) 9...Bxf3 10.Bxf3 c6 11.a4!? This interesting sacrifice is perhaps White's most challenging continuation. a5 Grabbing the pawn seems critical, although Black has a fully playable alternative:

A1) 12.Nb1! This piece sacrifice to open the centre is an important detail. Since White has not castled, simply attacking on the queenside will not produce results in time. Nbd7 13.g3 Ne5 (13...Nc5 14.Bxc5 dxc5 15.dxc6 bxc6! Black had a dangerous initiative in Kobese - Wu, Hastings 2006.; 13...Nb6!?N 14.Bg2 Qc7) 14.Bg2 Nc4 15.Bd4 Nh5;

A2) 12.Qd2 Qc7

is an alternative approach that looks fun for Black. 13.Rad1!?N This move retains the h-pawn, but Black still has decent chances after: Na6 14.Rfe1 Nb4! 15.Bd4 Nd7 16.Bxg7 Kxg7;

A3) 12.Be2 Qc7 13.f4 Na6 14.Bc4 Nd7 15.Qe2 Nb4 (15...Bxc3) 16.dxc6 bxc6 The complications have resulted in a level ending. 17.Rad1 e6 (=+) looks awkward for White, as 18.Bb3?! d5!;

A4) 12.-- N,N-11.e5!?;

B) 8.Bg5 Bg4

B1) 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 c6 11.Qd2 Nbd7;

B2) 9.Qd2 c6 10.Rfe1 Nbd7 11.dxc6 bxc6 12.Nd4

B2a) 12...Rc8 13.f3 Be6 14.Nxe6 fxe6;

B2b) 12...Qb6 13.Na4 Qc7 14.Bxg4 Nxg4 15.Bxe7 d5 16.f4 (16.Nf3 Nde5 17.Bxf8 Nxf3+ 18.gxf3 Qxh2+ 19.Kf1 Rxf8 20.fxg4 Qh1+ 21.Ke2 Qxe4+ 22.Kf1 Qxa4) 16...Rfe8 17.exd5 cxd5 18.h3 Nge5;

B2c) 12...--;

B3) 9.--;

C) 8.Re1 Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Nfd7 11.Be3 c6 12.Bd4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Qb6;

D) 8.h3? James Schuyler: 'This is played most often, spending a tempo to stop 8...Bg4. As we will see, 8. ..Bg4 was indeed Black's intention, but a tempo is a tempo. There is some disagreement about the merits of 8 h3 - Albur and Chernin adorn it with an (!) , while

Nunn says it is "not really necessary". I think it is the best move in the position.' James Schuyler: 'This is played most often, spending a tempo to stop 8...Bg4. As we will see, 8. ..Bg4 was indeed Black's intention, but a tempo is a tempo. There is some disagreement about the merits of 8 h3 - Alburt and Chernin adorn it with an (!) , while Nunn says it is "not really necessary". I think it is the best move in the position. This is played most often, spending a tempo to stop 8...Bg4. As we will see, 8...Bg4 was indeed Black's intention, but a tempo is a tempo. There is some disagreement about the merits of 8 h3 – Alburt and Chernin adorn it with an (!), while Nunn says it is "not really necessary". I think it is the best move in the position. This is played most often, spending a tempo to stop 8...Bg4. As we will see, 8. ..Bg4 was indeed Black's intention, but a tempo is a tempo. There is some disagreement about the merits of 8 h3 - Alburt and Chernin adorn it with an (!) , while Nunn says it is "not really necessary". I think it is the best move in the position. This is played most often, spending a tempo to stop 8...Bg4. As we will see, 8. ..Bg4 was indeed Black's intention, but a tempo is a tempo. There is some disagreement about the merits of 8 h3 - Alburt and Chernin adorn it with an (!) , while Nunn says it is "not really necessary". I think it is the best move in the position.'

D1) _____ James Schuyler: 'while Finkel, Urban, and Gufeld have four wins and three draws with' 8...c6 _____ James Schuyler: ', but against this, Benjamin's plan (' 9.Re1 (9.a4 a5 10.Re1 Na6 11.Bxa6! - see the note on 8...c6 in line B2) is very strong for White. James Schuyler: '- see the note on 8...c6 in line B2) is

very strong for White. – see the note on 8...c6 in line B2) is very strong for White. - see the note on 8...c6 in line B2) is very strong for White.');

D2) _____ For those interested in making ...c7-c6 work, I suggest 8...a6 (or 8...b6) 9.a4 b6 10.Be3 Bb7 11.Qd2 c6 12.Rad1 Qc7 13.Bh6 Nbd7 as in A.Bachofner-P.Hopman, Amsterdam 2006, when White is only slightly better.;

D3) 8...e5! _____ James Schuyler: 'Smirin and Gulko have each chosen 8...e5 three times, with an even (total) score;' 9.dxe6 James Schuyler: 'White should capture neither the queen nor the f-pawn, though this is not simple for him to figure out.' James Schuyler: 'If White does not play this move, he winds up in a King's Indian type of position where his normal play (with c2-c4-c5) is blocked by the c3-knight. This problem is serious for White, more so than Black's funny knight on b8 (which is normally on the e7-square). Black will play carefully for ...f7-f5. Part of being careful is considering ...h7-h6 to prevent White's Ng5-e6. If White does not play this move, he winds up in a King's Indian type of position where his normal play (with c2-c4-c5) is blocked by the c3-knight. This problem is serious for White, more so than Black's funny knight on b8 (which is normally on the e7-square). Black will play carefully for ...f7-f5.

Part of being careful is considering ...h7-h6 to prevent White's Ng5-e6.' James Schuyler: 'If White does not play this move, he winds up in a King's Indian type of position where his normal play (with c2-c4-c5) is blocked by the c3-knight. This problem is serious for White, more so than Black's funny knight on b8 (which is normally on the e7-square). Black will play carefully for ...f7-f5. Part of being careful is considering ...h7-h6 to prevent White's Ng5-e6. If White does not play this move, he winds up in a King's Indian type of position where his normal play (with c2-c4-c5) is blocked by the c3-knight. This problem is serious for White, more so than Black's funny knight on b8 (which is normally on the e7-square). Black will play carefully for ...f7-f5. Part of being careful is considering ...h7-h6 to prevent White's Ng5-e6. If White does not play this move, he winds up in a King's Indian type of position where his normal play (with c2-c4-c5) is blocked by the c3-knight. This problem is serious for White, more so than Black's funny knight on b8 (which is normally on the e7-square). Black will play carefully for ...f7-f5. Part of being careful is considering ...h7-h6 to prevent White's Ng5-e6.' Bxe6± James Schuyler: 'Black has caught up in development and now has only to worry about a

small space disadvantage. If White is not alert, Black will fix this with a quick ...d6-d5. --- White has now only showed interest in:' James Schuyler: 'Black has caught up in development and now has only to worry about a small space disadvantage. If White is not alert, Black will fix this with a quick ...d6-d5. --- White has now only showed interest in: Black has caught up in development and now has only to worry about a small space disadvantage. If White is not alert, Black will fix this with a quick ...d6-d5. White has now only showed interest in: Black has caught up in development and now has only to worry about a small space disadvantage. If White is not alert, Black will fix this with a quick ...d6-d5. --- White has now only showed interest in:'

D3a) James Schuyler: 'B12: 10.Nd4 Bd7 The insertion of these moves makes it easier for Black to pressure the e4-pawn. 11.Re1

D3a1) Similar is 11...Re8 12.Bf1 James Schuyler: '— although White can't win, he can try to lose if he likes with ' Nc6 13.Nb3 a5 14.a3 James Schuyler: '.' a4 15.Nd2 , and now Black s h o u l d p l a y Nd4! James Schuyler: 'has been played four times, but it is slightly weaker than the text. Then' (instead of 15...Na5?! James Schuyler:

'!' '!' 16.Nf3 , which was good for White in K.Hulak-S. Marangunic, Yugoslavia 1977) 16.Nf3 James Schuyler: '!' '!' Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3 Bc6 with an equal position.;

D3a2) 11...Nc6 Now White either loses time retreating the knight or agrees to an exchange that will ease Black's position. 12.Nf3 Re8 13.Bc4 Be6 14.Nd5 Qd7 15.c3 James Schuyler: '. White has a nominal edge because of the isolated e-pawn, but the game is all b u t d r a w n . ' Bxd5 James Schuyler: 'Still, let's be careful and avoid any mishaps by taking the a7-g1 diagonal immediately before White's bishop entrenches itself on e3: i.e.' 16.exd5 Rxe1+ 17.Qxe1 Ne5! 18.Nxe5 dxe5 . The position is equal, White's bishops being offset by his poor development and the inconvenience of guarding the d5-pawn. James Schuyler: ', and now let's centralize the king:' 19.-- B12 Nd4-N,N The Dark Knight System [James Schuyler] (If 19.Qxe5 , then after Re8 and 20... Re1+, White will never complete his development.);

D3b) 10.--;

D3c) James Schuyler: 'B11: 10.Bg5?' with the inclusion of Qb6 and Nc3, now this

standard move appears already to be a big positional mistake! James Schuyler: '!' James Schuyler: 'Dubious according to Nunn, in his 1989 'The Complete Pirc', this has been by far the more dangerous move in practice.' 10...h6! 11.Be3 (Instead: 11.Bh4 Nc6 12.Qd2 g5 13.Bg3 d5 equalizes.; 11.Bf4 Nc6 12.Qd2 g5 13.Bh2 Re8 14.Rad1 Nd7 offers White a tiny edge, but typical dark-square play for Black.) 11...Nc6 12.Qd2

D3c1) 12...Kh7

D3c11) 13.Rad1 Re8 14.Rfe1 a6 15.a4 . So far we have followed J . P i k e t - B . G u l k o , Amsterdam 1989, , indicating that nobody could come up with a plan - this is already a threefold repetition, but somehow the game continued and Gulko contrived to lose, even after a later repetition.) -- B11 Bg5-N,N [James S c h u y l e r] (which continued 15...Bd7 16.Bc4 Be6 17.Be2 Qe7 18.Nd5 Qd8 19.Nc3 , indicating that nobody could come up with a plan - this is already a threefold repetition, but somehow the game continued and Gulko contrived to lose, even after a later

repetition.; Alternatively, 15...Qe7 is fine to test the opponent for a draw (16.Nd5 Qd8 17.Nc3); but if one wants to continue, there is 15...Nd7!? 16.Bf1 b6 , intending 17...Nc5, while ...Nde5 is also a possibility, as is the manoeuvre ...Qc8-b7. White is a little better. --- Y.Gruenfeld-I.Smirin, Israeli Team Championship 1997 (see Game 69), shows what happens if White does not play a2-a4 to contain Black's queenside expansion - Black's counterplay was more than sufficient.);

D3c12) 13.Nd4 _____ Bd7 14.f4 Re8 15.Bf3;

D3c2) 12...d5 _____ 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Qxd5 15.Qxd5 Bxd5 16.Rfd1 Rad8]

6...Bg7

[6...Bg4 7.Qd2 Bxf3 8.gxf3 Nbd7 9.0-0-0 c6 10.f4 Bg7 11.dxc6 bxc6 12.Bh3 h6?! 13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.e5 Nh5 15.Bg4?! dxe5?! (15...Nxf4! 16.Qxf4 h5 17.Qe4 hxg4 18.Qxc6+ Kf8 19.exd6 exd6 20.Rxd6 Qc8=) 16.Qe2±]

7.Qd2 c6

5.Be2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0

[6...Bg4]

7.Be3

[7.Bg5 h6

A) 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Nh5 10.d5 Nxg3 11.hxg3 Ne5 12.Nd4 c6

13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.exf5 Qb6 15.Rb1 Nd7 16.Bf3 Rfe8 17.g4 Nf6;

B) 8.Be3 Ng4 9.Bd2 e5 10.d5 Ne7 11.h3 Nf6 12.Be3 Nd7 13.Qd2 Kh7 14.Ne1 f5;

C) 8.Bf4 Ng4 9.h3 (9.d5 e5 10.Bd2 Ne7; 9.Bd2 e5; 9.Bc1 e5 10.d5) 9...e5 10.dxe5 Ngxe5 11.Nxe5 (11.Qd2 Kh7) 11...dxe5;

D) 8.--]

7...a6

[7...e5

A) 8.d5 _____ Ne7 9.Qd2 Ng4 (Black is better) 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3 f5 gave Black a winning attack in Peng - Me, Calgary 2009 13.h3 as played in T. Meier - Haas, Wuerttemberg 2004, attempts to cut off our plan but it doesn't help: Nf6N 14.exf5 Nxf5! 15.Bh2 Qe8;

B) 8.Qd2 exd4 (Black is better) We still threaten ...f6, and 21.Bxe7 Re8 22.Bg5 f6 doesn't help. 9.Nxd4 Re8

B1) 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.f3 d5 (11...Qe7);

B2) 10.f3 d5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Rad1 Qe7 13.Bd4 dxe4 14.fxe4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Qxe4 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Bf3 Qe3+ 18.Qxe3 Rxe3 19.Bxc6 Rb8 20.Rd8 Rb6;

C) 8.dxe5

C1) 8...Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Qxd8 Rxd8

C1a) 11.Rfd1 Be6 12.Nb5 Rdc8 13.Nxa7 Rxa7 14.Bxa7 b6 15.Rd3 Ra8 I spent a lot of time here because all the main options seem to be doing well for Black. In the end I decided to follow Ivanchuk, whose move doesn't allow

White even equality. 16.Ra3! Ivanchuk's brainchild. It may seem strange to move the knight again but Black is getting ready to trade on b3 and sacrifice on c3. Bf8 In practical games this has been played almost exclusively. It makes sense for White to try and exploit our loss of control of the e5-square but, as usual in this structure, Black can simply ignore the threat to the knight. 17.Ra6 Bc8 18.Ra4! Bd7;

C1b) 11.Nb5 For the price of the exchange Black has one pawn, a safe king and good attacking chances. Meanwhile White's structure has been compromised and the bishop is still totally dead on g5. Black can actually win back the exchange by force here too. 19...Qc8!? is a good alternative plan. Now C31) 20. exf6 is rarely played, while C32) 20. Rhf1 is more common. Bd7 12.f3 C31) a6 (12...b6 Perhaps White should try; 12...Bxb5N but) 13.Nxc7 C32) Rac8 14.Bb6 has only occurred in one over-the-board game. Bc6 15.Nxa6 That game continued Rd2, which worked well in Pogonina - I. Korobov, Nizhnij Novgorod 1999. Instead 16.Bd3!? is suggested by Dearing, giving Black a good ending after bxa6 17.Be3 Rxd3?! 18.cxd3; and 21... Re8N looks even stronger.;

C1c) 11.Bc4 c6 12.Rad1 Re8 13.a4 Bf8 14.f3! (Black is better) is excellent for Black. Kg7 15.Rd2 Bb4 16.Rfd1 Re7 17.Kf2 (Black is better) We've reached another position that has been seen in quite a few correspondence games and again Black is scoring well. White has the more vulnerable king and Black's bishop pair is useful. Rd7 was tested in Farkas - Yaroshenko, corr. 2005. Here I'd play;

C1d) 11.-- N,N-16.Qe2;

C2) 8...dxe5 9.Qxd8 Rxd8 10.Rfd1 Bg4=]

8.h3

[8.Qd2 b5 (8...e5!?) 9.a3 Bb7 10.Rad1 e5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Qc1 Qe7 14.b4 Rfd8 (14...Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Bc5) 15.f3 Nh5 (15...Rxd1 16.Rxd1 Rd8) 16.g3 Rd4 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.exd5±]

[8.d5 Nb8 9.a4]

8...e5 9.Qd2

[9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Qxd8 Rxd8 11.Rfd1]

9...exd4 10.Nxd4 Bd7 11.f4 Re8 12.Bf3 Na5 13.Bf2?!

[13.b3 c5 14.Nde2 Bc6 (14...Bb5) 15.f5]

13...Nc4 14.Qc1 c5 15.Nb3?!

[15.Nde2]

15...Bc6 16.Re1 Nd7 17.Nd2 Ndb6 18.Nxc4 Nxc4 19.Rb1 Qa5 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.exd5 Nd2 22.Ra1 Qb4 23.c3 Qxf4 24.Kh1 Rxe1+ 25.Bxe1 Be5

Chapter-Games Game 5

5.Bc4 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0

[**6...Bg4** is also good; e.g. 7.Be3 0-0 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 e5 10.dxe5 (or

10.d5 Ne7) 10...Nxe5 11.Qe2 Nxc4 with equality.]

7.h3?! This is no good, but it is the most common, and other moves are either met by ...Bg4 or else are covered elsewhere:

[7.d5 Nb8 is line B again]

[while 7.Be3 Ng4 is C43 below.]

7...Nxe4 8.Bxf7+

[8.Nxe4?! d5 9.Bd3 (9.c3! dxc4 is only a little worse for White) 9...dxe4 10.Bxe4 Nxd4 is clearly unsatisfactory for White.]

8...Rxf7 9.Nxe4 d5! . White has four knight retreats and they're all bad – he has reached an inferior version of 5 h3 Bg7 6 Bc4 Nxe4! etc in line C1 (see the notes to White's 6th move). 10.-- N,N-N,N The Dark Knight System [James Schuyler]

[The most frequent is 10.Nc5?! and now, rather than Qd6?! as always played, (10...b6! 11.Nb3 Qd6 12.Ng5 Rf8 13.Re1 e5 gives Black a comfortable advantage.)]

³⁵ 5...a6 Black should deal with the pin so. 6.Bxc6+ Naturally White wastes no time, damaging Black's structure while securing a handy enough lead in development. 6...bxc6 GM Arturs Neiksans: ' ±' GM Arturs Neiksans: '1-0 (34) Zhigalko,S (2667)-Kurajica,B (2551) Istanbul 2012' 7.0-0 Going long isn't completely ridiculous despite the b-file being open, but the king will be very safe on g1 and White is now well placed to look for early expansion in the centre with e5. 7...Bg7 8.e5 Good cases can be made too for both 8.h3 and 8.Re1 , but

White has scored quite well with this immediate advance, which also appears to have been slightly underestimated in Bauer's book, and it's always nice to place the opponent under a bit of early pressure.

[8.Qe2 0-0 9.Rd1 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3± 11.Qxf3? Nd7 12.Be3 e5 (12...e6)]

8...Nd5 Black usually leaps forward so, Alekhine style. 8...Nd7 9.Qe2 O-O can be met by 10. Re1 followed by Bg5 or even 10.e6!? fxe6 11. Ng5 , which regained the pawn with a definite edge in Euwe-Bogoljubow, 8th matchgame, Karlsbad 1941. 8...dxe5? 9.Nxe5 already leaves Black without a great way of defending his c-pawn, not least with Qf3 and Bf4 on their way, not to mention 9...Bb7? 10.Na4! , clamping down on those queenside weaknesses with a strong bind.

9.Ne4 An important move, keeping pieces on. White also moves the knight closer to the kingside CC StartBracket CC or even c5 if Black makes a rather positionally misguided exchange on e5CCEndBracket CC, while freeing the c-pawn for action. 9...0-0 10.c4 Driving the black knight back to a somewhat sub-optimal location is undoubtedly White's most aggressive and also most principled continuation. 10...Nb6

11.b3 Shoring up b3 and continuing to play against the black knight. White may now develop with Bf4 and Qc1, looking to go Bh6 with attacking chances, or he might even consider Ba3 and Re1, which is designed to keep Black's counterplay under

control. 11...c5

[11...Bg4 12.h3 Wasting no time challenging the bishop as the e5-pawn can be gambited. Bxf3 (12...Bf5 13.Qe2 White's centre is secure and Ng3, Bf4 and Qe3 on their way, hence Black's next. c5 14.dxc5 Our standard mechanism of dealing with a ...c5 hit in many lines. Nd7 Once again, Black tries to exploit the pressure down the long diagonal, but White has a few strong continuations here, including developing with tempo. 15.cxd6 exd6 16.Bg5 Qe8 17.Ng3 Black's structure was about to get shredded on f5, which simply meant that he was in a lot of trouble in Shirov-Bachmann, Internet CC StartBracket CC blitz CC EndBracket CC 2020, and, yes, the remedy would be worse than the disease: 17...Be6? 18.exd6! Bxa1 19.Rxa1 cxd6 20.Bh6 . White will regain the exchange CC StartBracket CC if he wishes CC EndBracket CC , leaving him a pawn to the good and with clear targets in the shape of d6 and the black king. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #1) 13.Qxf3 dxe5 14.dxe5 Bxe5 15.Rb1 leaves Black a pawn to the good, but also suffering and clearly worse. His knight is far from happy and while 15...Nd7 prevents Nc5, it doesn't prevent White from obtaining a strong initiative with simple yet strong improving moves: 16.Bh6 Bg7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Rbd1 Qc8 19.Rfe1 . Clearly Black is under some pressure, with the weak c6-pawn arguably the least of his worries. White may simply go Nc3 or even try for more with h4-h5. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6

#2]

12.dxc5 Nd7 feels like the critical continuation, but even here White should not be too unhappy. He is temporarily a pawn up after all and 13.Bb2 Bb7 14.Qe2 maintains control 14...Nxe5 15.Nxe5 dxe5 16.Rfd1 White wants to go Nc3-d5 and while Black can prevent that, he should remain slightly worse: 16...Qe8 17. Nc3 e6 18.b4 Qc6 19.f3 . This unbalanced position isn't completely clear, but White's ability to overprotect c5 and so force through b5 should leave him definitely for choice. 16...Qe8 17.Nc3 Qc6 18. Nd5 Rfe8 19.Bxe5! when the tactics work for White: 19...e6 19... f6 20.Bc3 e6 21.Ne3 Qxc5 22.b4 Qe7 23.a4 leaves White's queenside pawn roller the dominant feature of the position, in part because Black can't obtain any play without allowing an exchange of bishops and/or creating a hole on d5. 20.Bxg7 exd5 21.cxd5 and White will emerge a clear pawn ahead, as with 21...Qxd5 22.Rxd5 Rxe2 23.Re5 Nimzowitsch G1: 2... d6-G1: 2...d6 #3

³⁶ **8.Qe2** or just 8.Bf4 then 9. Qe2 . 8...Bg7 9.Bf4 This is a dream set-up for White, as in Martinez Alcantara-Lamard, Barcelona 2018. The bridgehead on e5 divides Black's position in two, with all the play belonging to White with O-O-O and h3 and g4 next up. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #4

³⁷ **5.Be2** We can play in the same spirit as against the Pirc. The 5.d5

Ne5 6.Nxe5!? idea now only leads to a slightly better endgame after 6...Bxd1 7.Bb5+ c6 8.dxc6 dxe5 9.c7 **CC**StartBracket **CC**now there is no 9.cxb7+ because of 9...Nd7! **CC**EndBracket **CC** 9...Qd7 10. Bxd7 Kxd7 etc. 5...e5

[5...e6 This is played a lot, but I don't really understand why. 6.d5 exd5 7.exd5 Bxf3 8.gxf3 The simple 8. Bxf3 is also great, but the modern engines really like this creative approach. Ne5 9.h4 We grab space on the kingside and since we have two f-pawns, we don't have to weaken ourselves too much in order to do so. Be7 10.h5 0-0 11.h6 As we know from all the AlphaZero hype, this pawn can be great for us in the long term. g6 12.f4 Ned7 13.Bf3 White has a huge long term edge because we control all the squares. If you want to keep it simple, however, **CC**StartFEN **CC** r2qkb1r/ppp2ppp/2np1n2/3P4/8/2N2b2/PPP1BPPP/R1BQK2R w KQkq - 0 8**CC**EndFEN **CC** 8.Bxf3 is a great option too. 15) Black's Early Alternative-1...Nc6 with 2...d6 #3]

6.d5 Ne7 Black is hoping for some kind of King's Indian setup, but his pieces are too clumsy here. 7.Nd2 A trade of light-squared bishops is decent for us, so Black usually avoids it. 7...Bd7 8.a4 We can establish the knight on c4 and go for f4. 8...g6 9.Nc4 Bg7 10.0-0 0-0 11.f4 The most practical. Now even on the kingside we are the boss. 11...exf4 12.Bxf4 And Black's knights aren't well placed here for this pawn structure, being far away from the e5-square

where they belong. 15) Black's Early Alternative-1...Nc6 with 2...d6 #2

5.Bb5 This leads to a simple to handle position that is slightly better for White due to the better pawn structure. This leads to a simple-to-handle position which is slightly better for White due to the better pawn structure. 5...a6 Not pretty, but d4-d5 was an effective idea.

6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.h3 Inserting this move makes a lot of sense. After ...Bh5 we get the option to play g4 later.

7...Bh5 8.Qd3 Just unpinning and preparing to castle long. A nice move. We break the pin and prepare queenside castling. We have a comfortable advantage, with aggressive moves like g4 and Bg5 on the agenda. It is also possible to play **CC**StartFEN **CC** r2qkb1r/2p1pppp/p1pp1n2/7b/3PP3/2N2N1P/PPP2PP1/R1BQK2R w KQkq - 1 8**CC**EndFEN **CC** 8.Qe2 , **CC**StartFEN **CC** r2qkb1r/2p1pppp/p1pp1n2/7b/3PP3/2N2N1P/PPP2PP1/R1BQK2R w KQkq - 1 8**CC**EndFEN **CC** 8.g4 or **CC**StartFEN **CC** r2qkb1r/2p1pppp/p1pp1n2/7b/3PP3/2N2N1P/PPP2PP1/R1BQK2R w KQkq - 1 8**CC**EndFEN **CC** 8.Bg5 with similar ideas. The position is not dependent on precise sequences of moves. 8...e6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.g4 Bg6 11.0-0-0 White is more comfortable here with a huge space advantage. 11. Alekhines and Rare Lines- Alekhines Rare Lines

5...e6 Black wants to fight back on the light squares with ...d5. is the

main line and Black's most popular try: Black wants to play ...d5 next, achieving a French-like position with his bishop outside the pawn chain. 6.d5 We are controlling the center, so why not go for a breakthrough?

[6.h3 sees White sticking to the plan:

A) 6...Bh5 _____ 6...Bxf3 is too cooperative. 7.Qxf3+= White has the center and bishop pair. Next up is O-O-O followed by g4-g5 with a big advantage. 7.g4 Annexing space. 7.d5 is also strong. Bg6 Here White has often gone 8.Nd2, but he can do much better than defend e4: 8.d5 This seizes a strong initiative, in part because Black's bishop is a target and he is also rather vulnerable to Bb5+ ideas: exd5 (8...Ne7 was once tried by Darryl Johansen, but White can exchange on e6 and go Bd3 or even 9.Nd4 exd5 or 9...e5 10.Bb5+ Nd7 11.Nf5 with a certain bind on the position. 10.exd5 when the d-pawn is taboo: Nexd5 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.Bb5+ There's just no good move for Black, since either his king will be checked to death or White will make an elementary and devastating sacrifice: 12...c6 13.Nxc6! Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #8) 9.exd5 White's options of Bb5+, g5 and even Nd4 and f4 mean that Black already faces serious difficulties Nb4 (9...Nb8 also offers White far too much tempting choice, including 10.Qe2 and 10.g5 followed by claiming yet more space with h4 or Ne4 11.Qd4 Nxc3 12.Qxc3 Be4 13.Bg2

when White will castle long and it's far from easy for Black to address the pressure against g7. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #7; 9...Ne5 was preferred in Cebalo-Kalajzic, Bizovac 2006, where White had a great many tempting options of which the best might be 9...Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 Bg6 11.O-O-O ± White is almost fully developed while Black only has two minor pieces out. It's clear that White is much better. 10.Nd2 The simple threat is f4-f5 and while Black can delay that, sooner or later the advance will arrive with some force: clears the way for f4-f5 with a huge advantage. Black also has to watch out for Bb5+. Qe7 11.Bg2 h5 12.g5 Nh7 13.O-O and f4 will be next. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #6) 10.Bb5+ Ever a key move in these 2... d6 Nimzowitsch lines. c6 11.dxc6 Nxc6 12.Nd4 Intensifying the pressure while freeing Freddie 12...Rc8 13.f4! Be4 14.O-O . White threatens g5 and enjoyed a tremendous initiative in Miles-Mestel, Birmingham 1975. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #5;

B) 6...Bxf3 _____ 7.Qxf3 is just a pleasant two-bishop edge. Yes, Black can counter on the light squares, but not come close to equalising: d5 can be met by 8.O-O-O, not fearing central exchanges since White has a handy long-term asset, or 8.e5 Nd7 9.a3 This is a useful prophylactic move, keeping Black's pieces out of b4. Now there isn't even a rush to castle queenside and White may

prefer Bd3 and O-O, while Qg3 and h4 are two thematic ideas in the position if Black is slow. He usually hasn't been, but f6 10.Qg4 10...f5?! 11.Qf3 exchanges tempi for two very handy advances in g4 and h4, which will leave White with the initiative on top of his positional plusses. Qe7 11.f4 reveals White's thematic advance and one which left him with a very pleasant advantage in Stripunsky-Bonin, Ledyard 2008; Bd3 and O-O may follow or even Bb5. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #9]

6...exd5 7.exd5 Ne5 8.Be2 Nxf3+ 8...Bxf3 is met by 9.gxf3! ± .

9.Bxf3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 We are about to castle Queenside and take space on the Kingside, which is typically a good idea in a symmetrical structure. 37) Rare 1st moves-Rare 1st Moves: 1...Nc6 #9

5...g6 6.h3 Bxf3 6...Bd7? 7.e5! would rather embarrass Black's knight and play havoc with his development. 7.Qxf3 Bg7 8.0-0-0 is simply a very attractive set-up for White. He may still go Bb5 and meanwhile g4 and h4 are on their way, as well as e5: 8...0-0

[8...Nd7 9.Bc4 trying to provoke Black into castling into the attack and after e6 10.h4 h5 11.Bg5 Bf6 12.Qg3 followed by pushing the f- and/or d-pawn. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #12]

9.g4 e5 9...Nd7? 10.h4 e5 11.dxe5 Ndx5 12.Qh3 already left White with a huge attack brewing in Petrov-Forster, Swiss League 2017.

10.dxe5 Simple chess; Black's knight will now become a target for the f-

pawn. 10...Nxe5 11.Qg2 We're surprised that White has only scored 80% from this position, which tells you all you need to know. One threat is f4 followed by e5; another f4, Be2 and h4 with a huge kingside pawn roller, for example: 11...Nfd7 12.h4!? possible now that Black can't really go ...h5 in response 12...Nc6 13.Nd5 there is probably no need to fear ...Bxc3, but centralization is rarely a bad policy 13...Nb6 14.g5! Nxd5 15.exd5 Ne7 16.Bd3 . This dissuaded ...Nf5 and left h5 followed by Qh3/Qh2 on the way with idyllic attacking chances for White in Grinberg-Bachmann, Internet CC StartBracket CC blitz CC EndBracket CC 2020. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #11

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6.Bb5 Puts firm pressure on Black's e5 pawn. 6...Nd7 was once a great favourite of the Bosnian IM Zvonimir Mestrovic's, he of 4.Be2 and 5.h4 Pirc fame. However, once White seizes space, Black's game quickly becomes difficult: was once a great favourite of the Bosnian IM Zvonimir Mestrovic's, he of 4. Be2 and 5. h4 Pirc fame. However, once White seizes space, Black's game quickly becomes difficult:

[6...exd4 Worse is 6...Nd7?! 7.d5 Ne7? 8.Nxe5! is a nice tactical shot that wins a pawn after 8...Bxd1 9. Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.Nxd7 Kxd7 11. Rxd1+- 6...a6? drops a pawn to 7. Bxc6+ bxc6 8.dxe5± 7.Qxd4 Once again, White refuses to fear doubled f-pawns

CC StartBracket CC and the king's rook would love to enjoy a fine post on g1, gazing at g7 CC EndBracket CC, while simply intending to blast ahead with O-O-O and e5: Alternatives to 7... Be7 are rather unwise: for example, Be7 (7...Bd7 8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.O-O-O Be7 10.e5 dxe5 11.Qxe5 crashed through and was already winning with Rhe1 and Bc5 on their way in Neverov-Umanskaya, Pardubice 2002. Nimzowitsch G1: 2... d6-G1: 2...d6 #14) 8.h3 White is even happy to offer a tempo to tempt an exchange on f3. Neutralizes Black's only active piece. Bd7 8...Be6?! 9.e5! is awkward for Black, whether he retreats and allows Bxc6 bxc6; exd6 or 9...dxe5 10.Qxd8+ Rxd8 11.Nxe5 Bd7 12.Nxd7 Rxd7 13.Ke2! when White enjoys a lovely endgame advantage with Rhd1 and/or Bxc6 bxc6; Na4 on their way. Likewise, 8...Bxf3?! 9.gxf3 O-O 10.Qd2!? Ne5 11.Be2 is probably best avoided by Black with O-O-O, f4 and Rhg1 set to follow. is most sensible. Worse is 8...Bh5?! as 9.O-O-O O-O 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.g4± starts a pawn storm against Black's king with tempo. Also no good is 8...Bxf3?! which opens the g-file in White's favor. After 9.gxf3 O-O 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.O-O-O± White is about to start a big attack with Rhg1 next. 9.Bxc6 Simple chess. White gives up the bishop-pair to avoid losing time and reduce Black's options for counterplay. Bxc6 10.O-O-O 0-0 11.g4 This sounded the charge and with Black a little passively placed in Delchev-Mestrovic, Zadar 2002. White will simply go g5 then h4, Rhg1 if

needed, and h5 or if ... Nh5, Qc4 or Qd3 should be fairly strong, preparing Nd4, Rhg1, Qe2 to hit the knight and f4. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #13 The kings are castled on opposite wings. White's pieces are much more active and he is the only one attacking here.]

7.d5 Bxf3

[7...Ncb8 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.h4 A strong advance, refusing to fear the upcoming closure of the kingside, presuming that Black doesn't want his bishop driven back to h7 instead: h5 11.g5 Be7 12.Nd2 Beginning a powerful regrouping; White simply wants to lay siege to h5. c6 13.Be2 Nb6 14.Nf1 cxd5 15.Bxb6 15...axb6 . This was Pavasovic-Mestrovic, Slovenian Team Championship 2002, where Black was trying to distract White from his plan. 16.Bb5+! Nd7 17.Qxd5 would have been even stronger, dominating the hole on d5 and with Ne3-f5 but one strong idea on the table. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #15]

8.Qxf3 Ne7 9.h4 when White will either seize a lot of space or quickly get to open lines to favour his superior development: 9...a6 10.Be2 h5 11.g4 hxg4 12.Qxg4 g6 13.Bg5 followed by O-O-O left Black struggling to free his position in Hamarat-Bouverot, correspondence 2005. Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #16

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8.Nd2 Ng6 9.a4 Black will try to attack on the Kingside but it's not easy in this cramped position. We have a bind. One game went: 9... a5 10.Ra3 Be7 11.Rb3 b6 12.

Nb5 O-O 13.g3 h6 14.Rc3
Bxb5? 15.Bxb5 Nd7 16.h4 Re8
17.Qg4 Nf6 18.Qf5+- 1-0
CC StartBracket CC 45 CC EndBr
acket CC Bauer, C
CC StartBracket CC 2640 CC EndBr
acket CC -Fosset, F
CC StartBracket CC 1981 CC EndBr
acket CC Metz 2005. 37) Rare 1st
moves-Rare 1st Moves: 1...Nc6 #8

- 41 **4...Qh5** Black has this square available now that the knight is on f3, but the problem is there is just no good way to meet Nb5! After 4...Qd6 5.d4 Nf6 we would transpose to the ...Qd6 Scandinavian chapter. 5.Nb5 Kd8 Black is in a horrendous shape here. I like the following brutal line, to finish things off. 6.h3 Preventing Bg4. 6...Bg4 Black is teasing us, but this is just bad. 7.hxg4 Qxh1 8.d4 The queen is trapped in the corner and the king trapped in the center. Not a good combination for Black. 15) Black's Early Alternative-1...Nc6 with 2...d5 #2

- 42 **5.d4 Nf6** `<xmlX:en>Das Laerobok ist so unfreundlich, nur <sym>B</sym>f5 anzugeben, was wohl mit 6. <sym>B</sym>b5 zu widerlegen ist, weil Schwarz für's Endspiel bald sehr schlecht steht.</:en X/xml>`
Das Laerobok ist so unfreundlich, nur ♠f5 anzugeben, was wohl mit 6. ♠b5 zu widerlegen ist, weil Schwarz für's Endspiel bald sehr schlecht steht.
[5...Bf5 6.Bb5 e6 7.Ne5 Bb4 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.0-0! (9.Bd2

ist genügend.)]
6.Bd2

[6.Bb5! Bg4 7.h3!

A) 7...Bf5? 8.Ne5! Be4! 9.Bd2!;

B) 7...Bd7 8.d5 Ne5 (8...Nb4 9.Bxd7+) 9.Nxe5 Bxb5 10.Bd2 g6!
`<xml X:en>und Weiss hat die besseren Chancen. Damit glaube ich, den zweiten Zug des Schwarzen widerlegt zu haben.</:en X /xml>` und Weiss hat die besseren Chancen.

Damit glaube ich, den zweiten Zug des Schwarzen widerlegt zu haben.;

C) 7...Bxf3 8.Qxf3]

[6.Be2 Bf5 7.0-0 0-0-0 8.Be3 e5 9.a3 Nxd4 10.b4 Nxf3+ 11.gxf3 Rxd1 12.Rfxd1 Bxb4 13.axb4 Qxb4 14.Rxa7 c6 15.Nb5 cxb5 16.Ra8+ Kc7 17.Rxh8 Bd7 `<xmlX:en>Yates-Mieses, Haag 1921.</:en X/xml>` Yates-Mieses, Haag 1921.]

6...Bg4! `<xmlX:en>Einziger Zug. Hier hatte Schwarz eine glänzende Chance zum Verlust.</:en X/xml>` Einziger Zug. Hier hatte Schwarz eine glänzende Chance zum Verlust.

[6...Qb6? 7.Na4 `<xmlX:en>und der Dame geht die Puste aus!</:en X/xml>` und der Dame geht die Puste aus!]

7.Nb5 Qb6 8.a4 `<xmlX:en>Ich glaube, dass der einzige Fehler des Weissen gerade darin liegt, dass er zu schnell anzugreifen wünscht. Es droht jetzt a5 mit Damenverlust.</:en X /xml>` Ich glaube, dass der einzige Fehler des Weissen gerade darin liegt, dass er zu schnell anzugreifen wünscht. Es droht jetzt a5 mit Damenverlust. 8...Bxf3!

9.Qxf3 <xmlX:en>Besser ist hier</:enX/xml> Besser ist hier

[9.gxf3 <xmlX:en>worauf Schwarz</:en X /xml> worauf Schwarz a5 <xmlX:en>spielen würde. Aber Weiss will angreifen und glaubt wohl, die bessere Stellung zu haben.</:en X /xml> spielen würde. Aber Weiss will angreifen und glaubt wohl, die bessere Stellung zu haben.]

9...a6!! <xmlX:en>In diesem Opfer, das sowohl korrekt als auch originell ist, gipfelt die ganze bisherige Spielführung des Schwarzen. Nebenbei sie bemerkt, dass</:en X /xml> In diesem Opfer, das sowohl korrekt als auch originell ist, gipfelt die ganze bisherige Spielführung des Schwarzen. Nebenbei sie bemerkt, dass

[9...Nxd4? <xmlX:en>ein Fehler wäre.</:enX/xml> ein Fehler wäre.]

10.a5 <xmlX:en>Jetzt ist dies erzwungen. Wer "a" (4) gesagt hat, muss auch a5 sagen!</:en X/xml> Jetzt ist dies erzwungen. Wer "a" (4) gesagt hat, muss auch a5 sagen! 10...axb5 11.axb6 Rxa1+ 12.Bc1! Rxc1+ 13.Kd2 Rxc2+! 14.Kd1

Rxb2 <xmlX:en>Damit ist der Angriff aus. Die schwarze Dame hat sich für ihren Gemahl geopfert, aber ihm einen Turm, zwei Offiziere und zwei Bauern eingebracht. Aber jetzt rächt sich die weisse Dame fürchterlich. Mit</:en X /xml> Damit ist der Angriff aus. Die schwarze Dame hat sich für ihren Gemahl geopfert, aber ihm einen Turm, zwei Offiziere und zwei Bauern eingebracht. Aber jetzt rächt sich die weisse Dame fürchterlich. Mit 15.Qa3!

<xmlX:en>droht sie sogar mit Hilfe ihres getreuen Laeufers vernichtend einzugreifen.</:en X /xml> droht sie sogar mit Hilfe ihres getreuen Laeufers vernichtend einzugreifen. 15...Rb1+ 16.Kc2

Rxf1!! <xmlX:en>Es geht ja nicht um die rohe Materie, der Geist soll herrschen.</:en X/xml> Es geht ja nicht um die rohe Materie, der Geist soll herrschen. 17.Qa8+ Kd7

18.Qxb7! <xmlX:en>Ein geniale Falle.</:en X /xml> Ein geniale Falle.

18...Nd5

[18...Rxf2+? <xmlX:en>wäre nun ganz falsch wegen</:en X /xml> wäre nun ganz falsch wegen 19.Kb1! Nd5 20.bxc7 Nxc7 21.Rc1 Rf6 22.d5 <xmlX:en>und gewinnt. Sehr schön, aber alles umsonst, wie Schwarz sofort zeigt.</:en X /xml> und gewinnt. Sehr schön, aber alles umsonst, wie Schwarz sofort zeigt.]

19.Rxf1! <xmlX:en>Mit</:enX/xml> Mit [19.bxc7 Nxc7 20.Rxf1 (20.d5? Nd8!) 20...e6 <xmlX:en>würde Schwarz sich schneller aus der lebenswürdigen Damen-Umklammerung losmachen können.</:en X /xml> würde Schwarz sich schneller aus der lebenswürdigen Damen-Umklammerung losmachen können.]

19...Nxb6 <xmlX:en>Etwas besser wäre wohl</:en X /xml> Etwas besser wäre wohl [19...e6 20.Rc1 Bd6!]

20.Rc1! <xmlX:en>Ein sehr guter Zug, welcher Schwarz vor schwierige Probleme stellt. Weiss bot Remis an, was Schwarz ablehnte. In der Tat steht er wirklich günstig, aber nur sorgfältiges Spiel kann hier aus

diesem kleinen Vorteil etwas Grosses machen.</:en X/xml>
Ein sehr guter Zug, welcher Schwarz vor schwierige Probleme stellt. Weiss bot Remis an, was Schwarz ablehnte. In der Tat steht er wirklich günstig, aber nur sorgfältiges Spiel kann hier aus diesem kleinen Vorteil etwas Grosses machen. 20...Nb4+!
<xml X:en>Wieder das Einzige.</:enX/xml> Wieder das Einzige.

[20...Nxd4+? 21.Kb1 Ne6 22.Rd1+
<xmlX:en>usw. Auf andere Zä ge geht es nicht besser.</:en X/xml>
usw. Auf andere Züge geht es nicht besser.]

21.Kb3 <xmlX:en>Spä ter zeigt sich, dass der König hier sehr gefährdet steht.</:en X/xml> Später zeigt sich, dass der König hier sehr gefährdet steht. 21...N4d5 22.Qc6+ Kd8

23.f4
[23.Qxb5 <xmlX:en>wä rde</:enX/xml> würde e6 <xmlX:en>mit schwarzer Befreiung zur Folge haben.</:en X/xml> mit schwarzer Befreiung zur Folge haben.]

23...g6 24.g4 e6 25.f5! Bd6!
<xmlX:en>Weiss greift an, Schwarz lässt sich nicht stä ren.</:en X/xml>
Weiss greift an, Schwarz lässt sich nicht stören. 26.fxe6 fxe6 27.Rf1
<xml X:en>Der Angriff auf der c-Linie ist abgeschlagen. Weiss versucht es jetzt auf der anderen Seite.</:en X/xml> Der Angriff auf der c-Linie ist abgeschlagen. Weiss versucht es jetzt auf der anderen Seite. 27...Ke7 28.Qc1 <xmlX:en> Auch die weisse Dame geht auf Reisen. Wie Weiss sich immer wieder neue Angriffswege eröffnet,

verdient alle Anerkennung</:en X/xml> Auch die weisse Dame geht auf Reisen. Wie Weiss sich immer wieder neue Angriffswege eröffnet, verdient alle Anerkennung 28...Ra8

29.Qh6! <xmlX:en>Sehr gut und tief berechnet. Weiss spielt überhaupt die Partie nach dem verfehlten Ansturm des a-Bauern glänzend.</:en X /xml> Sehr gut und tief berechnet. Weiss spielt überhaupt die Partie nach dem verfehlten Ansturm des a-Bauern glänzend.

29...Ra3+ 30.Kb2 Nc4+ 31.Kb1! Nde3!
<xml X:en>Wieder der einzige Gewinnzug, der durch</:en X/xml>
Wieder der einzige Gewinnzug, der durch

[31...Rb3+ <xmlX:en>in drei Zä gen mattzusetzen droht. Vorerst kommt Weiss wieder aus Ruder.</:en X/xml> in drei Zügen mattzusetzen droht. Vorerst kommt Weiss wieder aus Ruder.]

32.Qxh7+ Kd8 33.Qg8+ Kd7 34.Rf7+ Kc6 35.Qe8+ Kb6! <xmlX:en>Der König strebt nach b4, wo er den Angriff wirksam unterstützen kann.</:en X/xml> Der König strebt nach b4, wo er den Angriff wirksam unterstützen kann.

[35...Kd5 <xmlX:en>wä re jetzt noch nicht richtig.</:en X/xml> wäre jetzt noch nicht richtig.]

36.Rf2 <xmlX:en>Verhindert die beim 31. Züge angegebene Mattführung.</:en X/xml> Verhindert die beim 31. Züge angegebene Mattführung.

36...Nd1! 37.Rf6 <xmlX:en>Jetzt kann der Turm nicht auf der 2.Linie bleiben, da das Feld f4 gedeckt sein muss, z.B.</:en X/xml> Jetzt kann der Turm nicht auf der 2.

Linie bleiben, da das Feld f4 gedeckt sein muss, z.B.

[37.Rg2 Nc3+ 38.Kc1 Bf4+ `<xmlX:en>usw.</:enX/xml>` usw.]

37...Nc3+ 38.Kc2 Ne2 `<xmlX:en>`Jetzt ist das Mattnetz (`<sym>N</sym>xd4+ usw.) fertig.</:en X/xml>` Jetzt ist das Mattnetz (xd4+ usw.) fertig. 39.Qb8+ Kc6 40.Qe8+ Kd5! 41.Qxe6+ Kxd4 42.Kd1? `<xmlX:en>`Ein Fehlzug in verlorener Stellung.`</:en X/xml>` Ein Fehlzug in verlorener Stellung.

[42.Qd7! `<xmlX:en>`hätte die Partie länger gehalten, aber es wäre alles vergebliche Mühe gewesen. Mit`</:en X /xml>` hätte die Partie länger gehalten, aber es wäre alles vergebliche Mühe gewesen. Mit Rd3! `<xml X:en>`hätte Schwarz das gestellte Problem gelöst.`</:en X/xml>` hätte Schwarz das gestellte Problem gelöst.]

42...Nc3+ `<xmlX:en>`Weiss gibt auf, da Matt oder Damenverlust nicht zu vermeiden ist. Die Stellung enthält jetzt noch eine Fülle schöner Varianten, deren Aufsuchen dem Leser überlassen sei. Wiener Schachzeitung nr.19 1926`</:en X/xml>` 0-1 (42) Lafora,C-De Veer,J corr 1926 Corr 2008 [De Veer] Weiss gibt auf, da Matt oder Damenverlust nicht zu vermeiden ist. Die Stellung enthält jetzt noch eine Fülle schöner Varianten, deren Aufsuchen dem Leser überlassen sei.
Wiener Schachzeitung nr.19 1926

⁴³ **6.a3** is a very strong move with the idea of meeting ...a6 with b4. 6...0-0-0 is Black's main move.

[6...a6 runs into 7.b4 is a strong counterblow. Black's queen is very short on squares so Nxb4 is practically forced. Retreating with 7...Qb6? loses material to 8.Nd5 Qxb5 8...Qa7 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10. Bxc6 Kxc7 11.Bxd7+- is lights out 9.Nxc7++- is decisive. 8.axb4 Qxa1 9.Bxd7+ Kxd7 Black's king is out in the open but more importantly 10.Nd4 followed by Nb3 will trap Black's queen. White is winning. 8. Bonus: 1... Nc6-2...d5 #1]

7.Rb1 prepares to push ahead with b4 and a4. Black's king is already committed to the queenside and is about to come under a big attack.

7...a6 7...Nf6 8.b4 Qb6 9.a4± followed by a5 is very strong. Black's queen has barely any squares. 8.b4 Qb6

9.Be2 White will complete development with O-O, d3 and Be3. Then we can start a big attack against Black's king with b5. The pawn on a6 is a big hook and Black's queen on b6 is also very exposed. 8. Bonus: 1... Nc6-2...d5 #2

⁴⁴ **7.Bc4** Again, the most accurate, as per the all-knowing computer.

7...0-0-0 8.h3 Taking the time to stop the Bg4 pin. If e5 we always have d5! in response. Black is in poor shape here. 8...Nf6 9.0-0 e5

10.d5 The way to go. Our pieces are ready to back up the far advanced d-pawn. 10...Be6 11.Bg5 Our d5-pawn somehow survives and it is Black who is losing material in the end. 15) Black's Early Alternative-1...Nc6 with 2...d5 #1

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8.0-0

We arrive at the same position as our repertoire, albeit through a transposition. Here we see why f6 is almost forced by Black since allowing Ne5 makes Black's life very difficult. 8...0-0-0

9.Ne5 Nice centralization with a double threat. 9...Be8 The only way to stop the fork on f7. 9...Nh6 Trying to guard it with the knight allows a removal of the guard tactic 10. B x h 6 g x h 6 11.N x f 7 10.b4 Exploiting Black's Queen's position. As usual in these offbeat/dubious openings, playing sound developing moves is strong but creating threats and punishing their moves is even stronger.

[10.Qf3 White is clearly better.]

[10.Be3 f6 Looking to kick the knight out of the e5 perch 10...Nh6 Looking to relieve the bishop of his guard duty on e8. 11.Qf3 f6 12.b4! Note that the pawn is untouchable since Rab1 would force Black to give up her queen to avoid mate ! 11.Qg4+ Kb8 12.Qf5 Setting up a deflection tactic. If Black takes the knight, White gets the dark square bishop and e7-pawn in return. 12.Qf3 May have been slightly more accurate. Ka8 13.Qf3 e6 14.a3 Ne7 15.b4 15.d5! A neat little tactic ! Black's queen gets trapped after b4. fxe5 16.b4 Qxd5 17.Nxd5 exd5+- Qb6 16.d5 Qd6 17.Nc4 Qd7 18.dxe6 Qxe6 19.Rfd1 Rc8 20.Na5 Nc6 21.Nb3 It is hard to label this a blunder, but when you see the stronger move that should have been played, it most definitely is. After this, Black is back in the game with a tough, but equal game. 21. Nxb7! A combination that blows open

Black's queenside and leaves his king with no protection ! Kxb7 22.b5 axb5 23.Nxb5 Ra8 24.Bf4 Ra4 25.Nxc7 Rxf4 26.Qxf4 Qe5 27.Qxe5 Nxe5 28.Nxe8+- An exchange and 2 pawns up, with Black's king highly exposed. This is completely winning for White. Ne5 22.Qe2 Qc4 23.Bd4 Qxe2 24.Nxe2 Bd6 24...Bg6 Developing while attacking White's weakest pawn was much better than defending the knight 25.Bc5 Bxc5 26.Nxc5 Black had been under so much pressure in the opening that it is hard to fault her for wanting to diffuse things. Sadly, this gives away the advantage she had built up after White's mistake. Bh5 27.f3 Rhe8 28.Nd4 28.Ng3 Going back on the offensive. Bg6 29.f4 Nc4 30.Rd7 Rg8 31.Ne6 Bxc2 32.Nxc7+ Kb8 33.Ne6 Nb6 34.Rxg7 Rxg7 35. Nxc7± Bf7 29.a4 Rcd8 30.a5 Nc4 31.c3 Ne3 32.Rdc1 This allows Black uncontested control over the open e-file 32.Re1 Bc4 32...Nd5 33.Re1 Rxe1+ 34.Rxe1 Nxc3± 33.Re1 f5 34.Nce6 Bxe6 35.Rxe3 Bd7 36.Rae1 g6 37.Rxe8 Rxe8 38.Rxe8+ Bxe8 Knight vs bishop endgame is usually better for the bishop when pawns are on both sides of the board, but here the pawns are easily positioned on squares the bishop cannot touch. 39.Ne6 Bf7 40.Nf8 h6 41.Kf2 b6 42.Nd7 Kb7 43.Ne5 Be8 44.Ke3 g5 45.g3 c5 Walking into a knight fork ! 45...bxa5 46.bxa5 c5 47.Nc4 Kc6= 46.Nc4 cxb4 47.cxb4 bxa5 48.Nd6+ Kc6 49.Nxe8 axb4 50.Kd4 b3 51.Kc3 Kd5 52.Ng7 Ke5 53.Kxb3 f4 54.g4 Kd4 55.Nf5+ Kd3 56.Nxh6 Ke2

57.Nf7 Kxf3 58.h3 Kg3 59.Nxg5 Kh4 60.Ne4 f3 61.g5 Kh5 62.h4
And Black's king cannot escort the pawn and stop White's pawns at the same time ! 6. Model Games-Shvayger,Y]

10...Qxb4 11.Qf3 A clever move, defending the knight and preparing Rb1. There are lots of threats looming. 11...Qxd4 12.Rb1 c6 13.Bf4 All of Black's pieces are lined up on the back rank except the queen. Rxb7 is even a threat. 37) Rare 1st moves-Rare 1st Moves: 1...Nc6 #4

⁴⁶ **3...e5** is Black's obvious alternative, transposing into a Four Knights Game after 4.Bb5
[Or, for example, a Scotch Four Knights after 4.d4 .]

⁴⁷ **4.exd5** Nxd5 5.Bc4 can be met by
[5.Nxd5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♞ ' Qxd5 6.b3 Bg4 7.Be2 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♞ ' (7.Bb2 0-0-0 ♞) 7...Bxf3 8.gxf3 Qc5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♞ ' (8...Qg5 9.h4 Qg2 10.Rf1 ♞) 9.c3 e6 10.Bb2 Bd6 11.d4 Qh5 12.Qd3 Bf4 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '= ' (12...0-0-0!? ♞) 13.Qb5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♞ ' (13.Qe4 Bxh2 14.f4 Qh3 ±) 13...Qxb5 14.Bxb5 0-0-0 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Bc1 Bd6 17.Be3 h6 18.h4 h5 19.Ke2 Be7 20.Rag1 g6 21.f4 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♞ ' (21.Bg5 Kd7 =) 21...Rd5 22.Rd1 Rhd8 23.b4 Kb7 24.a3 Rf5 25.Kf3 Ka6 26.a4 Kb7 27.a5 Ka6 28.Rc1 Kb5 29.Ke4 Kc4 30.Rc2 Re8 31.Rcc1 Bf6 32.Rc2 e5 33.Kf3 (33.fxe5?? Bxe5 34.f4 Bxf4+ 35.Kf3 Bxe3+ 36.Kg2 Kd3-+) 33...exf4 34.Bd2 (34.Bxf4? g5 35.hxg5 Bxg5 36.Rxh5 Rxf4+ 37.Kg3 f6-+) 34...Kd3 35.Rb2 Re3+

Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♞ ' (35...a6!? ♞) 36.Bxe3 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♞ ' (36.fxe3 fxe3+ 37.Kg3 exd2 38.Rd1 ♞) 36...fxe3+ 37.Kg3 Kxc3 38.Re2 exf2 (38...Kxb4?! 39.fxe3 g5 40.Rb2+ Kc3 41.Rb7 gxh4+ 42.Kg2 Rxa5 43.Rxc7 ♞) 39.Rxf2 Rxf2 40.Kxf2 Bxd4+ 41.Kf3 Kxb4 42.Ke4 c5 43.Kd5 Kxa5 44.Kc6 (44.Kc4 Kb6-+) 44...Kb4 45.Kxc7 c4 (45...Kc4!? 46.Kc6-+) 46.Rb1+ (46.Kc6 Bb2 47.Rf1 c3 48.Rf4+ Kb3-+) 46...Kc3 (46...Kc5 47.Kd7-+) 47.Rc1+ (47.Kd6 Be3-+) 47...Kb3 (47...Kd3 48.Kc6 c3 49.Rd1+ Kc4 50.Rc1-+) 48.Kc6 c3 49.Kd5 c2 (49...Kb2 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '-+' 50.Rf1 Be3 51.Ke4-+) 50.Kxd4 Kb2 51.Rg1 c1Q 52.Rxc1 Kxc1 0-1 (52) Lennartz,W-Lasker,E Germany 1925 53.Ke5 f5-+]
[5.d4 Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.a3 Qf6 8.Bg5 Qg6 9.Qd2 Nxc3 10.bxc3 f6 11.Bh4 0-0-0 12.0-0 e5 13.Qe3 Bd6 14.d5 Nb8 15.Bg3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 f5 17.Qh5 Qxh5 18.Bxh5 g6 19.Be2 g5 Schmidt,M-Stuermer,R/DLM 1995/0-1 (68)]
[5.Bb5 Nxc3 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.bxc3 Qd5 =]

5...Nb6

[5...Be6 is another possibility.]

6.Bb3 Bf5 , transposing into another line of Alekhine's Defence, with a comfortable game for Black.

4.Bb5 is well met by 4...dxe4

5.Ne5 Qd6 , when White struggles to find adequate compensation.

⁴⁸ **4...d4** is another good move, but White can get a slight endgame edge after 5.exf6 dxc3 6.fxg7 cxd2+ 7.Qxd2 Bxg7 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8

9.c3 .

⁴⁹ **6.Bb5** Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 e6 9.0-0 g6 10.Rd1 Bg7 11.a4 a5 12.b3 0-0 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Ba3 Re8 15.Ne2 f6 16.Qc3 fxe5 17.dxe5 Nd7 18.f4 g5 19.g3 gxf4 20.gxf4 Qh4 1-0 (25) Dagenais (2542)-5.d3 ♖e7 6. ♕e2 ♖c7 4211 (2063) corr WS/M/334 2011 (2)

⁵⁰ White can also play **7.Bd3** , but then 7...Qd7 is a good reply.

⁵¹ **8.Be2** e6 9.Nf3 Qe7 1.07/17 and Black wants to combine long castling with ...f7-f6. Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless) Nimzowitsch Defence-2.Nf3 Nf6 3. Nc3 [GM Nigel Davies]

[9...Be7 is another option, looking to castle short and play ...f7-f6.]

[9...f6± 0.49/20]

⁵² **3...Ng4** is not a good square for the knight. 3...Nd5 4.d4 d6 Transposes to the mainline of the Alekhine, which is covered in detail in my course Crush the Alekhine and Scandinavian! Undeveloping the knight with 3...Ng8?! makes zero sense. 4.d4± takes over the center with a huge advantage. 4.d4 Takes over the center and intends to follow up with h3 when Black's knight will find itself very short on squares. 4...d6 Putting pressure on White's center is Black's only logical plan. Anything else and he's simply much worse. 5.h3 Nh6 6.Nc3

is very precise. The idea is to meet ...dxe5 with d5! is very precise. The idea is to meet ...dxe5 with d5! Also possible is 6.Bxh6 gxh6 7. Nc3 but keeping the two bishops on the board is slightly more precise.

[6.Bxh6 gxh6 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.c3 Bf5 9.Nbd2 0-0-0 10.Nc4 Qf6 11.Nce5 Bg7 12.Bc4 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Qg5 14.Nf3 Qf4 15.Bd3 Bxd3 16.Qxd3 e5 17.Qe3 Qxe3+ 18.fxe3 e4 19.Nh4 Bf6 20.Nf5 Rhg8 21.0-0 Rg6 22.Rf4 Rdg8 23.g3 Bg5 24.Rxe4 Re6 25.Re5 Bf6 26.Ra5 h5 27.Kg2 a6 28.Kf3 Rge8 29.Re1 Re4 30.Nh6 h4 31.g4 R4e6 32.Rh5 Rb6 33.Re2 Kd7 34.Nf5 1-0 Stocker, A-Stuermer,R/DLM 1996]

6...a6 is Black's most common move, stopping Bb5. 6...dxe5?! runs into 7.d5 Nb8 8.Nxe5± with a big lead in development and a clear advantage. 7.Bg5 Bf5

[7...dxe5 has been tried a couple of times and once again runs into 8.d5 Na7 8...Nd4 9.Nxe5± gave White a big advantage in the game 1-0 **CC StartBracket CC64CC EndBracket CC Lagarde, M CC StartBracket CC 2393 CC EndBracket CC -Cotonnec, M CC StartBracket CC 2276 CC EndBracket CC France 2009.** 9.Nxe5 g6 10.Qd2 is a funny position with Black's knights on h6 and a7. White, of course, is the only one having fun here. 8. Bonus: 1...Nc6-2...Nf6 #1]

8.Nh4 is White's strongest move, which was not considered in the book Play 1... Nc6! by Christoph Wisniewski. 8...Qd7 occurred in 5/7 games that reached this position.

Alternatives are considered below. 8...Nb4 fails to accomplish anything of value. White can just cover the c2-pawn with 9.Rc1! dxe5 10.d5 g6 11.a3 forces 11...Nxc2+ as Black's knight was out of squares. 12.Rxc2 Bxc2 13.Qxc2+ when White's two minor pieces are much stronger than Black's rook. 8...Bc8 can be met with 9.f4 Nf5 10.Nxf5 Bxf5 11.g4 Bd7 12.Bg2± with an overwhelming position. 8...Bg6 is very similar. 9.f4 Nf5 10.Nxf5 Bxf5 11.g4 Bd7 12.Bg2±

9.g4 Bg6 9...Be6?? 10.d5+- wins a piece 10.d5 forces Black to undevelop his knight. 10...Nd8 10...Nxe5?? 11.f4+- traps Black's knight. 11.f4 Threatens to win material with f5. 11...e6 12.Qe2 followed by O-O-O gives White an overwhelming position. 8. Bonus: 1...Nc6-2...Nf6 #2

⁵³ **4.c4** Kicking the knight ahead of further expansion with 5. d4 . 4...Nb6 5.c5N

[5.d4 White is now set to roll Black over with Nc3 and d5, so Black pretty much must counter in the center. d6 We've now transposed to a line of the Alekhine, one which more commonly arises from CGStartFENGG rnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1 CGEndFENGG 1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.c4 Nb6 . Once upon a time, Richard dabbled in this unbalanced line as Black, but gave it up once it became clear that White could secure too strong an early initiative.

A) 6.Be2N Bg4 (6...dxe5

is well met by 7.d5 .) 7.e6 (7.exd6 exd6 transposes into 6.exd6.) 7...fxe6 Black's plan now is to put pressure on d4 with a kingside fianchetto. 8.Nc3 (Or 8.O-O g6 9.Re1 Bg7 10.d5 exd5 11.cxd5 Nb4 etc.) 8...g6 9.Ng5 Bxe2 10.Nxe2 Qd7 11.Qd3 The position is equal. Bg7



12.Nxh7! Remove Defender, Decoy 0-0-0 13.Ng5 (Or 13.Qxg6? -1.95/19 13.Ng5 0.06 Bxd4 , when Black is ready to use the g-file with ...Rdg8.) 13...Rdf8 Against Nf7.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.00 (flawless) Nimzowitsch Defence-4. d4 d6 5.c4 Nb6 6.Be2 2024;

B) 6.e6 A key advance. As Black doesn't want to lose a piece to an early fork, he is forced to capture with the f-pawn and so retard his development. 6...fxe6 7.Nc3 Simple development. 7.Be3 is also quite promising for White.

B1) 7...e5 is Black's other main move, but is, of course, quite

desperate looking. White should be happy to regain his pawn with straightforward play: 8.d5 Nd4 8...Nb8? 9.Ng5! would be a positional disaster for Black with Qf3 and Bd3 on their way. 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Qxd4 White threatens Be2-h5+ and may castle on either side. As such, Black surely has to hit back in the center: e5 11.Qe4 Aggressive play. 11.Qd1 and 11.dxe6 Bxe6 12.Be2 Qf6 13.Qxf6 gxf6 are the alternatives and also fairly pleasant edges for White. g6 (11...Be7 12.Bd3 prevents castling and White is happy to drop his queen back to e2 if necessary: Nd7 13.Qe2 Nf6 14.O-O 0-0 15.f4 Not only does White control e4, but enjoys pressure down the e-file and against the black kingside, leaving Black low on counterplay and suffering in Zenker-Winiarski, correspondence 2003. Nimzowitsch G2: 2...Nf6-G2: 2...Nf6 #11) 12.Bd3 Bf5 13.Qe2 The standard retreat in this line. Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Qh4 15.Ne4 We've followed M.Muzychuk-Dornbusch, European Online Women's Rapid Championship 2020, where White enjoyed an ideal edge. Complete control of e4 is always a useful asset in this structure CC StartBracket CC a bad King's Indian for Black if you like CC EndBracket CC. As well as the immediate threat of Bg5, White can complete development with O-O and Be3,

after which he will begin to prepare to breakthrough with c5. Nimzowitsch G2: 2...Nf6-G2: 2...Nf6 #10;

B2) 7...g6 8.Be3 Bg7 9.h4 d5 10.c5 Nd7 11.h5 e5 12.h6 Bf6 13.Nxd5 exd4 14.Nxf6+ exf6 15.Nxd4 Nimzowitsch G2: 2...Nf6-G2: 2...Nf6 #9]

5...Nd5 6.Nc3 The critical reply, but Black can manage.

[6.Bc4 e6! 7.d4 b6! 0.77/18 (7...d6± 0.33/20 is superior. 8.cxd6 cxd6 9.0-0 Be7 transposes, surprisingly, into a 2.c3 Sicilian.; 7...d6± 0.33/20 is superior.) 8.Bxd5± exd5 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Bxe7 Nxe7 is fine for Black.]

6...Nxc3 7.dxc3 e6 8.b4 White is slightly better. 8...b6

[8...Be7 is also possible,]

[but 8...d6 9.Bg5 is unpleasant because Be7 1.29/21 drops the d6 pawn. (9...f6± 0.53/20)]

9.cxb6 axb6 10.Bd3 Bb7 11.0-0 Be7 12.Qc2 f5 13.exf6 0.35/20

[13.Qe2± 0.74/19]

13...Bxf6± 14.Bxh7 0.01/21

[14.Bd2± 0.58/19]

14...Nxb4= 15.Bg6+ -0.37/19

[15.cxb4= 0.01/21 was preferable. Bxf3 16.Rb1]

15...Kf8 . It seems that White has been making the running, but suddenly he finds himself facing numerous threats.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
Nimzowitsch Defence-4.c4 Nb6 5. c5 [GM Nigel Davies]

⁵⁴ 4...e6 5.Bd3 Ndb4 6.Be2 d5 7.c3 Na6 8.Bd3 Be7 9.h4 h6 10.h5 b6 11.Be3 Ncb8 12.b4 c5 13.a3 Nd7

14.0-0 Nc7 15.Ne1 c4 16.Bc2 f5
 17.exf6 gxf6 18.Qg4 Bf8 19.Nf3 Qe7
 20.Nh4 Kd8 21.Ng6 Qg7 22.Qg3 Rg8
 23.Bf4 e5 24.dxe5 fxe5 25.Nxe5 Nxe5
 26.Bxe5 1-0 Kindermann,S-Stokstad,P/
 Skei 1994/EXP 42

55 **5.Be2** dxe5 6.dxe5 Bf5
 is very comfortable for Black.

56 **6.exd6** exd6 This is an Exchange
 Variation of the Alekhine's Defence,
 but White does not have his most
 dangerous plans available. 7.Nc3
 Bg4 is another transposition. , reaching
 the main line after Black's 7th
 move.

[7...Be7 is more common, but White
 can reach the position after 7...Bg4
 by playing 6.Nc3 Bg4 7.exd6 exd6.]

8.Be3 Be7 9.Be2N

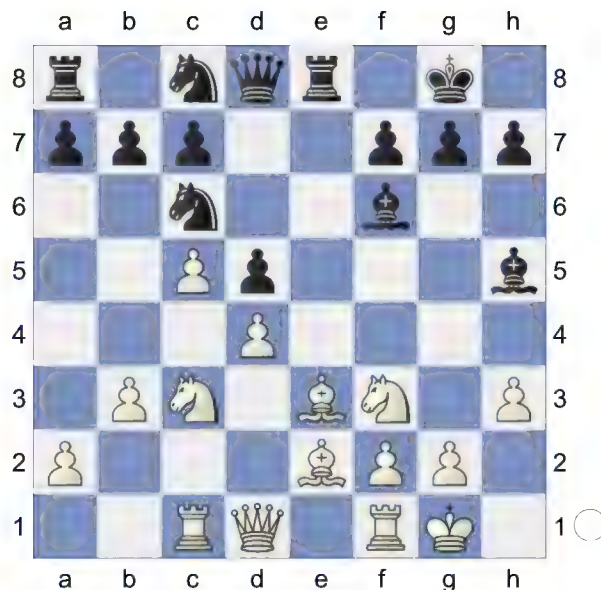
[A more ambitious line is 9.h3 Bh5
 10.g4 , for example White is gaining
 space. (10.d5 Ne5 11.g4 Nxf3+
 12.Qxf3 Bg6 is fine for Black.)
 10...Bg6 11.d5 (11.h4 h5 12.g5
 Now Black's dark-squared Bishop will
 be very weak .47. Nimzowitsch
 Defense 1.e4-Nimzowitsch Defense 1.
 e4 Nc6) 11...Nb4 12.Rc1 h5
 (12...a5!?) 13.g5 0-0 gives Black
 decent play.]

9...0-0 10.b3 Re8 11.0-0 Bf6 12.Rc1
 d5 13.c5 Nc8 14.h3

[14.a3 N8e7 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Bxf3
 Nf5 And now ...Rxe3 would win.
 17.Nxd5 Bxd4 18.Bxd4 -0.26/20
 (18.Bf4± 0.45/21 Be5 19.Bxe5 Nxe5
 20.Be4) 18...Ncxd4 is more than fine
 for Black.]

[14.b4 a6 15.h3 Bh5 transposes
 back into the main line.]

14...Bh5



White is slightly better. 15.b4!
 0.55/20 a6 transposes back into
 the main line.

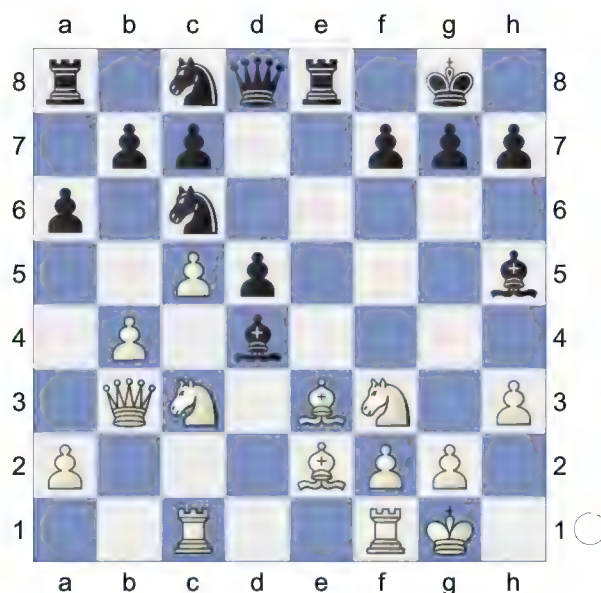
[15...Bxf3 16.Bxf3]

16.Qb3

[And not 16.a4 -0.18/20 16.g4 0.72
 Nxb4 17.Rb1 -0.70/22 (17.a5=
 -0.17/20) 17...a5 etc.]

16...N8e7

[16...Bxd4



17.Qxd5 0.46/22 (And not 17.Nxd4
 0.60/22 17.Rcd1 1.00 Nxd4 18.Bxd4
 Bxe2 etc.; 17.Rcd1!± 1.13/22 Bxf3

18.Bxf3 Bxe3 19.fxe3) 17...Qxd5
 1.08/22 (Black should play 17...Bxe3±
 0.46/22 18.fxe3 Bg6) 18.Nxd5± Bxf3
 19.Bxf3 favours White.]
 17.g4 Against Nf5 17...Bg6 18.g5
 0.01/22 White is more active.
 [18.Rfd1± 0.64/18]
 18...Bxd4!= 19.Bxd4 Nf5 gave Black
 excellent compensation in Manyai,Z
 (2200)-Gazik,I (2405) Eger Agria op
 1989.
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.19
 (very precise) /Black=0.10 (very
 precise) Nimzowitsch Defence-4.
 d4 d6 5.c4 Nb6 6.exd6 [GM Nigel
 Davies]
6.Nc3 Another dangerous move.
 e6! would now be deadly. 6...Bg4
 The most promising reply, the
 alternatives look difficult for Black:
 [a] 6...dxe5 1.11/19 6...Bg4 0.75
 7.d5 Nb8 8.Nxe5 N8d7 9.Nxd7
 Nxd7 10.Bf4 is very unpleasant.]
 [b] 6...g6 7.exd6 cxd6 8.d5 (8.Be3
 0.63/20 8.d5 1.04 Bg7) 8...Na5
 1.99/19 (8...Nb4± 0.97/19
 is a better defense.) 9.Qd4+- Rg8
 10.b3 leaves Black busted.]
 [c] 6...Bf5 7.Nh4 is very strong.]
 7.Be3N This is a really critical test of
 Black's play, but it seems unlikely
 that you will meet it over the board.
 I found a line which looks playable
 for Black, though he may find
 himself in a somewhat worse
 endgame in the unlikely event that
 White plays all the right moves.
 Alternatives are:
 [a] 7.exd6 exd6 (7...cxd6 8.d5 Ne5
 9.c5 Bxf3 10.gxf3 dxc5 11.Bf4 Qd6
 12.Bb5+ Kd8 13.0-0 Agdestein,S-
 Ghiris,M URS-ch Soviet Union 1983)
 8.Be2 Be7! , again with an Exchange

Variation of Alekhine's Defence.]

[b] 7.e6 fxe6 8.Be2 g6 9.Ng5 Bxe2
 10.Nxe2 (10.Qxe2 -0.99/19
 10.Nxe2 -0.08 Nxd4) 10...Qd7
 11.Nf4 -0.62/20 (11.Qd3= 0.00/19
 Bg7 12.Nxh7 0-0-0 13.Ng5 Rdf8
 Nimzowitsch Defence-4.d4 d6 5.c4
 Nb6 6.Be2 2024; 11.d5 -1.23/20
 11.Qd3 0.27 exd5 12.cxd5 Nb4
 leaves White struggling to hold the d5
 pawn.) 11...e5 12.dxe5 dxe5
 13.Qxd7+ Kxd7 14.Nd3! Nxc4
 and Black has all the chances in the
 endgame.]
 7...dxe5 I couldn't find a decent
 alternative, for example:
 [a] 7...g6 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Bg7
 10.c5 Nd7 11.0-0-0 0-0 12.Bb5
 dxe5 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.dxe5 Qc8
 15.e6 is very good for White.]
 [b] 7...e6 8.exd6 cxd6 9.Qb3 Bxf3
 10.gxf3 with d4-d5 in the air.]
 8.d5 Nd4 Deflection 9.Bxd4 exd4
 10.Qxd4 Bxf3 11.gxf3 e6 Black is weak
 on the light squares
 [I tried to make 11...Qd6 work, but it
 seems less good. For example
 12.0-0-0 (12.c5 0.18/22 12.0-0-0 0.
 66 e5! 13.Bb5+ Kd8 14.Qh4+ Be7
 15.Qg3 Qxc5 16.Qxg7 Rf8 17.0-0-0
 a6 also leaves Black struggling to stay
 in the game.) 12...e5 13.Re1 0.07/19
 (13.dxe6± 0.93/20 Black must now
 prevent Qe4. Qxd4 14.Rxd4)
 13...0-0-0= 14.Rxe5 Qf6 15.f4
 Strongly threatening c5. Bd6 0.53/20
 (15...Kb8= 0.03/20)
A) 16.Kc2!± 0.53/20
 was preferable. Qh4 (16...Bxe5
 17.fxe5) 17.Re4;
B) 16.Rg1 0.07/19 16...Qh6
 0.43/18 (16...Qh4= 0.07/19 17.Rf5
 g6 18.Rxf7 Qxh2) 17.Kc2 0.01/20

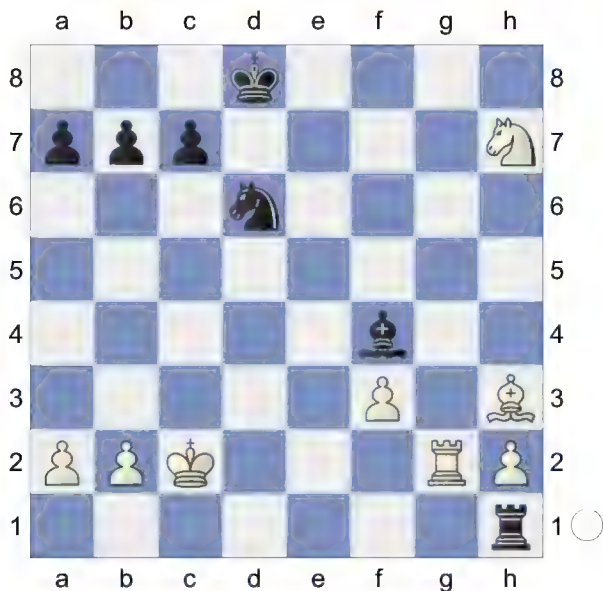
(17.Reg5!± 0.43/18) 17...Bxe5= 18.fxe5 gives White more than enough for the sacrificed exchange.]

12.0-0-0 White is more active. 12...Qf6 13.Qxf6

[13.dxe6 Qxd4 0.99/21 (13...fxe6± 0.57/21 feels stronger. 14.Qe3 Be7) 14.Rxd4 0.60/19 (14.exf7+± 0.99/21 Kxf7 15.Rxd4 Bd6; 14.exf7+± 0.99/21 Kxf7 15.Rxd4) 14...fxe6 1.10/17 seems playable for Black. (14...f5!± 0.60/19)]

13...gxf6 14.Bh3! Nxc4 15.dxe6 Rd8! 16.Nb5

[I also analyzed 16.Rxd8+ Kxd8 17.exf7 , for example Ne5 18.Rd1+ Bd6 19.f4 Nxf7 20.Nd5 Re8 21.Rd2 Re1+ 22.Kc2 Rh1 23.f3 Bc5 24.Nxf6+ Nd6 25.Nxh7 Be3 26.Rg2! Bxf4



27.Nf8! Hoping for Ne6+. Bxh2 28.Ne6+ Ke7 29.Nxc7 Nc4 and Black should hold.]

16...Bd6 17.Rd4 Repels Bf4+ [17.Nxa7 Bf4+ 18.Kc2 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Nd6±]

17...Ne5 18.f4 0.01/22

[Much worse is 18.Nxa7 Nxf3 19.Ra4 Ng5 (19...Bxh2? 20.Bg2+-) 20.exf7+ Kxf7±]

[18.Rhd1± 0.59/22]

18...Nf3 1.12/23

[18...Ng6= 0.01/22 keeps the balance.]

19.Nxd6+± Rxd6 20.Rxd6 cxd6 Endgame. KRB-KRN 21.Bg2 Nd4

22.exf7+

[Reject 22.Bxb7?! fxe6 23.Rd1 e5= (23...Ne2+ 24.Kd2±)]

22...Kxf7 23.Bxb7 Rd1 is the strong threat. 23...Ne2+ 24.Kd2 Nxf4

25.Rc1 Ke6 26.Ke3 Ng6 when White is still pushing but Black can probably hold. This, like 6.e6, is not at all attractive for Black if White knows what he is doing, meaning computer like precision.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.13 (very precise) Nimzowitsch Defence-4. d4 d6 5.c4 Nb6 6.Nc3 [GM Nigel Davies]

57 **6...Bxe6** 1.79/19 6...fxe6 0.67 7.d5 costs a piece.

58 **7.Nc3** Threatens to win with d5. Simple development. 7.Be3 is also quite promising for White. 7...g6 1.05/20

[7...e5± 0.60/19]

[7...Nd7 can be met with 8.Ng5 or even 8.d5 exd5 9.cxd5 Nce5 10.Nd4

The hole on e6 is already pretty much a decisive weakness, for example: 10...Nf6 11.f4 Nf7 12.Bb5+ Bd7 13.Ne6 Qc8 14.Bxd7+ Kxd7 15.O-O left Black unable to fully free his position with f5 on the way in Ivanov-Heimann, Washington

2006. Nimzowitsch G2: 2...Nf6-G2: 2...Nf6 #12]

8.h4± Bg7 9.h5 0.55/19

[Better is 9.Be3± 1.04/20]

9...e5± 10.d5 Nd4 looks OK for Black.

⁵⁹ **8.h4** White has strong compensation. Intending to challenge the g6 pawn with h5.

8...Bg7

[8...e5 9.d5 e4 10.Ng5 Ne5 11.Nc3 Bg7]

9.h5N 0.61/18

[Better is 9.Nc3± 1.04/19 Here comes Harry... We can first finish the development as the move h5 will not run away. Black has no good way to prepare against it. e5 Once again, we see Black frantically trying to return the extra pawn to liberate his position. (9...0-0 would be rather brave: 10.h5 e5 10...gxh5? was once preferred by Levon Aronian in a World Cup rapid play-off, but after 11.Bd3! we doubt his king would have survived, with Rxh5 and Ng5 on their way. 11.d5 White keeps lines closed 11.hxg6 exd4! isn't completely clear, and will now recoup his pawn Nd4 12.Nxd4 exd4 13.Bxd4 g5 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.h6+ was a strong intermezzo followed by Qd4+ or Qd2 and/or Rh5 in Ponomarev-Ivanchuk, 7th matchgame, Moscow 2002. Nimzowitsch G2: 2...Nf6-G2: 2...Nf6 #7) 10.d5 As ever in this line, a strong advance and one which reminds Black of his light-square issues.

A) An engine suggestion is 10...Na5!? 1.82/18 10...Nd4 1.00 11.Bxb6 1.02/19 (11.Nd2+- 1.82/18) 11...axb6± 12.b4 e4! , for example 13.Nxe4 Bf5 1.00/21 (13...Nb3!±

0.55/19 feels stronger. 14.Rb1 Bf5) 14.Ned2± 0-0 15.bxa5 Rxa5 16.Be2 Bxa1 17.Qxa1 Qa8 , and Black is OK.;

B) 10...Nb4 11.a3 Na6 12.h5 is all one-way traffic. Black can avoid g6 being targeted immediately, but in any case finds himself in huge trouble: Bf5 13.hxg6 hxg6 or 13...Bxg6 14.Nh4! Bf7 15.Nf5 Bf6 16.g4 followed by g5 or Ne4, with a huge bind and far more than enough for a pawn. 14.Rxh8+ Bxh8 15.Ng5 with the simple idea of g4 and then targeting g6 15...Qc8 16.Be2 c6 17.g4 Bd7 18.Qd3 . This left g6 falling and with it Black's position in Akopian-Gabriel, Baden-Baden 1996. Nimzowitsch G2: 2...Nf6-G2: 2...Nf6 #5;

C) 10...Nd4 Prudently returning the pawn. 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Bxd4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 e5 14.dxe6 Simple chess, opening lines and pretty much forcing Black's next. 0-0 is playable for Black. 15.h5 transposing to our main 9...e5 line after Qf6 (15...Qe7 16.0-0-0 Qxe6 17.Ne4 is also very bad for him, and if Qe5 18.Qxe5 dxe5 19.c5 which creates serious difficulties for Black's king and knight. Nimzowitsch G2: 2...Nf6-G2: 2...Nf6 #3) 16.0-0-0 (16.Qxf6 White hasn't anything better than exchanging queens and opening the h-file, not that he should exactly be unhappy. Rxf6 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.e7 The pawn sells itself as dearly as possible. This has been quite a long line, if also an instructive one and a fairly common

scenario, Black beating off White's attack at the cost of endgame suffering. Even here his king isn't happy, with Bd3 on the cards, as is O-O-O with definite ideas of c5. 18...Re6+ discombobulating. 18...Bf5? 19.O-O-O followed by c5 is also very strong. 19.Kd2 Rxe7 20. Bd3 Bf5 21.Rh6 White continues to pressure g6 while facilitating Rah1. We've followed in the footsteps of, amongst others, Chessable's very own Maaïke Keetman and White definitely enjoyed a clear plus here in the endgame in Keetman-Theulings, Groningen 2015. 18...Be6? hopes for ...Re8 and ...Rxe7, but fails to the energetic 19.c5! dxc5 19...Nd5 20.Nxd5 Bxd5 21.O-O-O Bc6 22.cxd6 cxd6 23.Bc4+ when the e-pawn very much lives. 20.O-O-O Re8 Now 21.Ne4 was strong in Petrik-Slacký, Banská Štiavnica 2010, and 21.Rd8 Bd7 22.Nb5! likely even stronger. Preventing Nxc7 isn't at all easy and 22...Rc6 still loses to some further energetic play 23.a4! a5 24.g4! when Black is completely tied up and g5 followed by Bh3 the killer plan. 18...Bd7 is the safest square for the bishop, but fails to bring Black close to equality: 19.Bd3 Re8 20. f3 Rxe7+ 21.Kd2 White leaves his king in the middle for the endgame. He will now either double on the h-file or prepare to invade down the e-file if Black offers a trade of rooks. Note too how much more active and useful the knight on c3 (Nd5, Ne4) is compared with its counterpart on b6. Nimzowitsch G2:

2...Nf6-G2: 2...Nf6 #1) 16...Bxe6 17.f3 Rae8 18.Qxf6 Rxf6 19.b3 Kg7 20.Re1 Rf7 21.Bd3 Rfe7 22.h6+ Kf8 23.Re3 d5 24.cxd5 (26) Part Chapter-Games Part 2 Chapter 1]

[9.Nc3± 1.04/19]

9...e5!± 10.d5 e4 Discovered Attack

[10...Nb4 1.18/19 10...e4 0.59 11.a3 Na6 1.77/18 (11...e4± 1.23/20 was called for.) 12.Ng5 is very good for White.]

11.Ng5 The position is very complicated, but objectively it seems good for White if he plays with engine-like precision. 11...Ne5 Alternatives are as follows:

[a] 11...h6 12.Nxe4 Bxb2 2.42/19 (12...Ne5± 1.01/18 was worth a try.) 13.Nbd2 will get more than enough for the sacrificed exchange.]

[b] 11...Bxb2 1.56/20 11...Ne5 0.71 12.Nd2 Bxa1 13.Qxa1 Ne5 14.hxg6! starts to get quite ugly for Black.]

12.hxg6

[After 12.Nc3 Black should probably play Bg4 13.Qc2 c6 , which is not quite clear.]

[12.Nc3 is more complex. c6 13.dxc6 bxc6 14.h6]

12...hxg6 13.Rxh8+ Bxh8 14.Nxe4 Nbxc4 15.Bxc4 Nxc4 16.Qa4+ Qd7? 3.02/21

[16...b5± 0.48/19 17.Qxb5+ Qd7 18.Qxc4 Bxb2]

17.Qxc4+- Bxb2

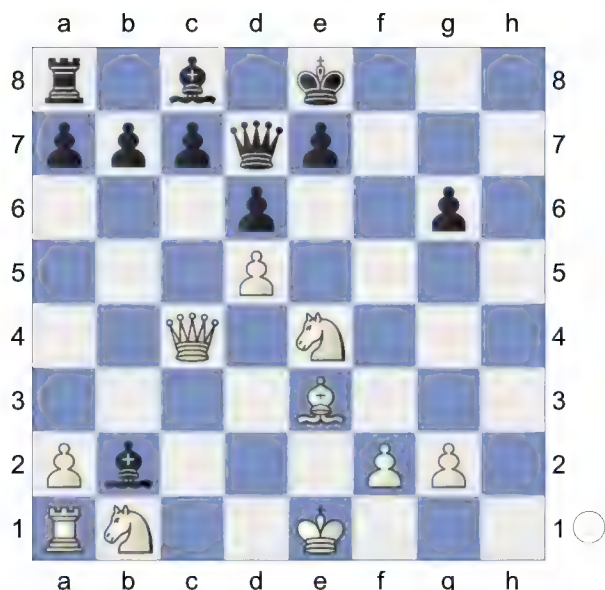
(Diagram)

18.Ng5! Strongly threatening Ne6!

18...Bxa1

[18...e6 19.Nxe6]

19.Ne6 is now good for White, according



to engine analysis.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10
(very precise) /Black=0.49
Nimzowitsch Defence-4.d4 d6 5.c4
Nb6 6.e6 [GM Nigel Davies]

⁶⁰ **2...e6N** 3.c3 d5 4.e5 Be7 5.Bd3
Bg5 6.Nd2 f5 7.h4 Bh6 8.g4 Bxd2+
9.Bxd2 Qe7 10.Qc2 Qf7 11.Nh3 h6?
[11...fxg4!? 12.Nf4 g6±]
12.gxf5 exf5 13.0-0-0 Nge7 14.Nf4
Be6 15.Rdg1 g6?
[Δ15...Rg8!?!+-]
16.Rxg6 Nxg6 17.Nxe6 Qe7??
[Δ17...Rg8 18.Bxf5 Nf8 19.Nxf8
Qxf8+-]
18.Bxf5 Nxh4
[18...Nf8 19.Nf4 Kd8 20.Qb3+-]
19.Bg6+ Nxg6
[19...Kd7 20.Nc5+ Kc8 21.Rxh4 b6
22.Qf5+ Kb8+-]
20.Qxg6+ Kd7 21.Nc5+ Kc8 22.Qf5+
Kb8 23.Nd7+ Kc8 24.Nb6+ Kb8
25.Bg5 Qg7 26.Bf6 Qf7
[26...Qh7 27.Qxh7 Rxh7 28.Nxa8
Kxa8+-]
27.Nd7+ Kc8 28.Nc5+ Kb8 29.Rxh6
Rxh6 30.Nd7+ Kc8 31.Nb6+ Kb8

32.Qc8# 1-0 (32) Torre Repetto,C-Eigdio
Mexico 1928 [ChessCalisthenics]

2...Nf6? 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 e6

[4...Nb6!?!]

5.Nf3 Be7 6.0-0 d6 7.exd6 Qxd6

[Δ7...Bxd6]

8.Nbd2 Bd7 9.Ne4 Qb4 10.Bb3 0-0-0

No han quedado tan mal las negras
despues de su raro planteo. 11.c4

f5?? Parece que el que juega a ciegas
es el negro, que no ve que ahora
pierde una pieza.

[Despues de 11...Nf6 12.Qe2

(12.Neg5 Be8=) 12...Nxe4 13.Qxe4

Bf6= mantenian una posicion

equilibrada González,JA: 'mantenian
una posicion equilibrada']

12.cxd5 fxe4 13.dxc6 exf3 14.cxd7+

Rxd7 15.Bxe6 fxe2 16.Kxg2 h5

17.Re1 Kd8 18.Bxd7 Kxd7 19.Qe2

Bf6 20.Bf4 h4 Tras esto hay mate

forzado en nueve jugadas. Trate de

calcularlo el lector, como ejercicio

táctico... González,JA: 'Tras esto

hay mate forzado en nueve jugadas.

Trate de calcularlo el lector, como

ejercicio táctico...' 21.Qe6+ Kd8

22.Bxc7+! Kxc7 23.Rac1+ Kb8

[Si 23...Kd8 24.Rc8#]

24.Qe8+! Rxe8 25.Rxe8+ 1-0 (25)

Najdorf,M-NN Rosario ARG 1943

Miguel Najdorf [González_9923,JA]

⁶¹ **4.f4** Nf6 5.Nc3 c6 6.Nf3 cxd5

7.exd5 g6 8.Be3 Bg7 9.Bd4 0-0

10.Be2 Nbd7 11.Qd2 a6 12.0-0-0

[Δ12.a4 b6 13.0-0]

12...b5 13.Ng5 Bb7 14.Bf3 Rc8 15.g4

Qa5 16.a3 Rc4 17.Na2 Qxd2+

18.Rxd2 h6 19.Nh3 e5 20.Be3 exf4

21.Bxf4 Ne5 22.Bxe5 dxe5 23.Re1 e4

24.b3 Rc7 25.Bxe4 Re8 26.Rde2

Rxe4 27.Rxe4 Nxe4 28.Rxe4 Bxd5

29.Re8+ Kh7 30.Kd2 Be6 31.Nf2
Rd7+ 32.Kc1 Bd4 33.Nd3 Bxg4
34.Nab4 Rd6 35.Nxa6

[35.Ra8 Rf6!]

35...Rxa6 36.Re4 Bc3 37.Rxg4 Rxa3
38.Kd1 Ra7 39.Ke2 Re7+ 40.Kf1 f5
41.Rf4 Kg7 42.Rf3 Be5 43.h3 Kf6
44.Re3 Bd6 45.Rxe7 Kxe7 46.c4 bxc4
47.bxc4 g5 48.Ke2 Ke6 49.Ke3 h5
50.Kf3 Bc7 51.Ke3 g4 52.hxg4 hxg4
53.Nb4 Ke5 54.Nd3+ Kf6 55.Nb4 Bh2
56.Nd3

[56.c5 Bg1+ 57.Kf4 Bxc5 58.Nd5+
Kg6 59.Ke5 Kg5 60.Nc7 Bd6+
61.Kxd6 g3]

56...Kg5 57.Kf2 Bb8

[57...f4]

58.Ke3

[58.c5 f4 59.c6 Kh4 60.Ne1 Ba7+
61.Kg2 Bb6]

58...Kh4+ 0-1 (58) MPP-Grafe,W corr
1964 Corr 2000 [Grafe]

⁶² **6.Bd3** The easiest set-up! We are going to play Nge2 followed by O-O, with simple play. 6...Bg7 7.Nge2 This seems to be the best set-up for White. 7...0-0 8.0-0 And Black has a few plans to choose from, but none of them seem particularly threatening. 8...e5 Setting up the King's Indian pawn structure. Black's idea is to break with ...f5!

[8...e6 9.h3 Preparing to play Be3 without allowing ...Ng4! exd5 10.cxd5 Re8 11.Ng3 Keeping the e4-pawn well defended. Nbd7 12.Be3 Nc5 Threatening to eliminate the light-squared Bishop. 13.Bc2 With easy play for White. The plan is to go Qd2, Rae1, and then push f4 followed by Bd4, and the attack is playing itself. 9. Nimzowitsch-Nimzowitch Nc6]

9.f3 Preparing to play Be3 without allowing ...Ng4! 9...Ne8 With the idea to push ...f5! 10.Be3 f5

11.exf5 Creating hanging pawns that we can attack later! 11...gxf5 12.Kh1 This is a useful move because we are going to break with g4, and we need the g-file for the Rook.

12...Kh8 13.Qd2 Preparing to play Rae1. 13...a5 14.Rae1 Na6 15.g4 White is crushing on the Kingside. 9. Nimzowitsch-Nimzowitch Nc6

⁶³ **7...a5** A typical King's Indian move. Black controls the b4-square and will soon place a knight on c5, when we won't be able to chase it away with b4. 8.Bd3 Na6 9.Be3 As I stated, no fancy moves are required from us. Just simple development moves. 9...e6 A logical move, fighting against our center. 10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 Re8

12.Rc1 White puts his rook in the half open files. 12...b6 Black has fairly decent control of the dark squares in the position, but our advantage is stable due to our extra space.

13.Bc2 Prophylaxis against Nc5.

13...exd5 A bit early, but extremely natural. 13...Nc5 is better, when we should respond with 14.Qd2 and take with the e-pawn if Black takes on d5. 14.cxd5 14.exd5 was equally strong. 14...Nc5

15.Bd4 Bb7 Black has completed his development, but we can now remove the strong knight on c5 with the typical 16.a3 c6 17.b4 We are faster than Black. 17...axb4

18.axb4 Ncd7 19.dxc6 Bxc6 20.Bb3 Targeting the pawns on f7 and d6. 20...h6 21.Qd3 Re7 So far, we have

been following Prizant, J - Stukalov, A Pushchino 2013 when the most precise way forward would have been to play 22.Be3 Rc8. Note that 22...Nxe4 doesn't work due to 23.Nd5 . 23.Qxd6 Bxe4 24.Nxe4 Rxe4 25.Qd2. Our initiative gives us a decisive advantage. 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1...-2...d6 (3...Nb8 2)

8.Bd3 There have been a few games played in this position. White should be able to keep control over the position with logical moves. All of White's pieces are perfectly placed and White has a huge space advantage. 8...e5 Leads to the Makogonov Variation in the King's Indian, but Black is down two tempos. 8...e6 9.O-O exd5 is definitely natural, but our position remains clearly better after 10.cxd5 Re8 11.Re1 Nbd7 12.Bg5±. Due to our extra space and better central control. Closes the pawn structure in the center and also the diagonal a1-h8 for his g7-Bishop. Now besides simply castling short, White can play 1f8 8...c6 we can just play 9.O-O or even 9.Bg5 or 9.Be3 and Black cannot really do anything to our strong center.

[8...c6 9.O-O e6 (9...a6 10.Be3 White simply puts his pieces on their most natural ideal squares and prepares to meet Black's pawn breaks. b5 11.cxb5 axb5 12.dxc6 b4 13.Nd5 Nxc6 14.Bb6 Qd7 15.Bb5 suddenly wins for White, due to the pressure on the c6-square and the pin of the Knight. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... d6 #6) 10.Bg5 exerts pressure on the h4-d8

diagonal and after h6 11.Be3 Now that White managed to provoke Black into playing the weakening ...h7-h6, he willingly retreats his Bishop back to e3. exd5 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.exd5 Nbd7 14.Qd2 Kh7 15.Rfe1 Ne5 16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Rad1 Bd7 18.Bc2 White has an edge, thanks to the powerful supported advanced pawn on d5. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... d6 #5]

[8...e6 9.O-O exd5 10.cxd5 c6 11.Re1 cxd5 12.exd5 Nbd7 13.Bf4 Nc5 14.Bc2 Re8 15.Qd2 a5 16.Nd4 White has annoying pressure on the d6-square and ideas to attack it even further with Ndb5 etc. Black cannot shake off the pressure for now. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... d6 #3]

9.g4 A highly aggressive push, taking away the h5-square for Black's knight on f6. This is the most testing option in the Makogonov, so it's not surprising that we go for it here as well. Note also that it's much harder for Black now to carry out the desired f5-break. Preventing Black's counterplay on the Kingside: now h5 is taken away from Black's Knight and it is almost impossible for him to consider the move ...f7-f5 at all, as that would only lead to a fatal opening of the g-file. After

[9.Be3 9.g4 was mentioned by Wesley So in his course but I was not so sure with the flank move immediately as Black can create counterplay with 9...c6. Instead, I would like to first develop the pieces with 9.Be3 and then play g4 at the right moment. The c5-break is on the

cards next. Nh5 Black is planning to head to f4 but we can simply prevent it by 10.g3 f5 11.exf5 Breaking open the position as White's pieces are armed up to meet this standard break of Black. Also, the Knight on h5 is without any support so White can make use of it by gxf5 12.Ng5 Nf6 13.Qe2 Followed by long castle and Black is in trouble here as he has not even started any sort of counterplay. After long castle, White is ready to have some fun : CC EndBracket CC . Chapter Offbeat Openings - Nimzowitsch Defence With]

9...a5 The usual way to play for Black is to place a knight on c5. 10.Be3 Na6 11.Nd2 The knight is well placed on d2 where it controls the e4-square. We also support the g4-pawn with the queen, so we can soon think of advancing on the kingside with h4-g5. 11...Nd7 Black can also place this knight on c5 when the f5-break becomes more available. 11...Nc5 12.Be2 c6 13.h4 It's time to advance on the kingside! 13...cxd5 14.cxd5 Bd7 Black's only hope for counterplay is to launch his pawns on the queenside. 15.h5 a4 And now, instead of playing 16. f3, Naka should have played 16.h6 in Nakamura, H - Amin, B St. Petersburg 2018. Black's position is hopeless as we can see after 16...Bh8 17.g5 Ne8 18.b4! Preventing Black from getting counterplay with Qa5. 18...axb3 19. axb3 19...Rc8 20.Ra7+- White has excellent control on both sides of the board.

[11...Nc5 12.Be2 White has a really good version of the King's Indian. His

idea is simply to gain space next with g4-g5 and h4-h5, further suffocating Black's position. c6 13.h4 Bd7 14.g5 Ne8 15.h5 a4 16.Kf1 Now White can prepare Be2-g4 without having to worry about a Knight fork on d3. Qa5 17.Rc1 White is better here. Black has no counterplay and terribly lacks in space. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... d6 #4]

12.a3 Controlling the b4-square and maybe one day we can play b4 too. 12...c6 13.h4 The kingside launch begins. 13...Ndc5 14.Bc2 This time we want to place the bishop here, so we can keep an eye out on Black's f5-break. 14...Bd7 14...f5? Doesn't work due to 15.exf5 gxf5 16.gxf5 Bxf5 17. Bxf5 Rxf5 18.Nde4+- Black is essentially busted as his king is too weak. Besides, our knight on e4 is fantastic. 15.h5 cxd5 16.exd5 This is important as 16.cxd5 allows b5! 16...Rc8 17.Qe2 White has a powerful attack. 16. Nimzowitsch's Defense (1...-2...d6 (3...Nb8 3)

⁶⁴ 4...Ng6 5.Nf3 e6 5...e5 won't make a difference after 6.dxe6 . 6.dxe6 fxe6 7.Nc3 [7.Bd3 Be7 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.Qe2 White has a stable center and active pieces, meanwhile the Knights on f6 and g6 are horribly placed and can be attacked with e4-e5. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... d6 #1] 7...Nf6 8.g3 Is an interesting move, controlling the f4 and h4 squares. A more natural move like for example 8.Bd3 is also good. 8...Be7 9.h4 A strong move, aiming to

harass the knight with h5. 9...h5
 10.Bd3 e5 11.f5 Nf8 12.Bc4
 Ng5 is now a nasty threat.
 12...N8h7 13.Ng5 We can play it
 anyway. 13...Nxg5 14.hxg5 Ng4
 And now, in Calva Caballero, I -
 Velazquez Betancourt, A ICCF
 email 2018, a beautiful line would
 have been: 15.Qxg4 Sacrificing the
 queens wins by force. 15...hxg4
 16.Rxh8+ Bf8 17.f6 gxf6 18.g6 Kd7
 19.Nd5 This move was on the top of my
 list. White is going to play g7 or
 Rh7 followed by Nxc7, so Black is
 toast. 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1...-
 2...d6 (3...Ne5)

⁶⁵ **6...Nc5** Black's knight has had a
 pretty fascinating journey. Nc6-e5-
 d7-c5. It's obvious that this concept
 can't possibly work. 7.Nc3 Nf6
 8.Qd4 This move is never played before,
 which is slightly surprising. The
 queen covers everything, while she
 supports the e5-break. 8...cxd5
 8...Qa5 Is an interesting way to
 trick us, threatening Ncxe4 and Nb3.
 9.e5! Nb3 is nothing to be
 concerned about. 9...Nb3 10.Qd1
 Nxa1 11.exf6+- Black's extra
 exchange won't last long, as there
 is no way the knight on a1 leaves
 unscorched. 9.cxd5 e6 The engine
 suggests that Black tries to
 decrease the strength of our center.
 10.b4 Black's knight is forced to move
 yet again... 10...Na6 11.dxe6 fxe6
 12.Bb2 White is way too active. 12...Be7
 13.a3 Supporting the pawn on b4.
 13...0-0 14.Bc4 Pressuring the pawn on
 e6. 14...Nc7 15.Rd1 d5
 Trying to fight off our forces, but
 our power is too strong. 16.exd5

exd5 17.Nxd5 Ncxd5 18.Qe5
 The point is that we want to take
 the knight with the rook, not the
 bishop! Black can't recapture due to
 the mate on g7. 18...Kh8 19.Rxd5
 19.Bxd5 gives Black an insane
 amount of counterplay after 19...
 Bd6 . 19...Qb6 20.Bb5
 The last accuracy. Preventing Black
 from causing havoc in the e-file.
 The queen on b6 is also in trouble
 as Bd4 comes next. 16.
 Nimzowitch's Defense (1...-2...d6
 (3...Ne5 3)

⁶⁶ **8.e5** dxe5 8...Ng8 9.Bd3 Bg7
 Black tries to gain counterplay by
 battling our 'premature' e5-push.
 Unfortunately for him, we can
 simply sacrifice the pawn for
 overwhelming initiative. 10.Qe2
 Qc7 11.O-O ! A strong pawn
 sacrifice which works tactically for
 us. 11...dxe5 12.fxe5 Nxe5 13.
 Bf4 Qb6+ 14.Be3 Qc7 It seems
 like Black is surviving, but we have
 a great resource up our sleeve. 15.
 Nxe5 Bxe5 16.c5 We are aiming
 to play d6 which will give us a nice
 pathway towards Black's king.
 Additionally, we can place a bishop
 on c4 which will attack the f7-pawn.
 16...Nf6 Black is almost on time to
 castle, but... 17.d6 Refutes Black's
 play. 17...exd6 18.Rxf6+- A nice
 move which wins material and the
 game. 9.fxe5 Ng4 Is Black's best
 way to fight, but it doesn't work
 either. 10.Qd4 Ndx5
 Black's piece sacrifice works
 tactically. 11.Nxe5 Bg7 12.Bf4 g5
 Black manages to win the piece
 back launching his kingside pawns

against us. 13.Bg3 f5 We can't escape the pin and save the piece, as Black will pay f4 next. Unfortunately for Black, things work out well for us in the end. 14.Be2 A strong move, targeting the knight on g4. More importantly, the only way Black will win back the piece is to give up the pressure on our pawn on d5 by playing 14...c5 Black wins back the piece, but with a kingside in jeopardy the position is pretty terrible after 15.Qd2 Nxe5 16.Qxg5 Ng6 And now, a very strong move is 17.h4 The knight on g6 will be removed from its post and we will castle queenside. 17... Bf6 is met by 18.Qd2. Damn it feels good to have the white pieces... 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1...-2...d6 (3...Ne5 2)

⁶⁷ **3.c3** Nf6 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bxf6 Qxf6 6.dxe5 Nxe5 7.Nd2 Bc5 8.Ngf3 Ng4 9.Qb3 Nxf2 10.Rg1 Qf4 11.g3 Qe3+ 12.Be2 Nxe4 13.0-0-0 0-0 14.Bc4 Nxd2 15.Nxd2 c6 16.Rde1 Qg5 17.Bxf7+ Hoppensack,M-Malich,B/Schkopau 1955/EXT 2003/0-1

⁶⁸ **3...Qh4** 4.Nc3 [4.Nd2 Nxe5 5.g3 Qd8 6.f4 Nc6 7.Bc4 d6 8.Ngf3 Be7 9.Qe2 Be6 10.Bb5 a6 11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.Nd4 c5 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Qg4 Kf7 15.Nf3 h6 16.Bd2 (16.e5! G.Beisser) 16...Nf6 17.Qh3 Nxe4 18.0-0 Qd7 19.Rae1 Nxd2 20.Nxd2 Bf6 21.c3 Rab8 22.f5 e5 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.b3 Qf7 25.Qf3 d5 26.Qe3 Qe7 27.Qd3 Qd6 28.c4 d4 29.Ne4 Qc6 30.Qf3 Rb6 ½-½ (30) Kremer,H-Beisser,G corr_157298 1964]

4...Bb4 5.Bd2 Nxe5 6.Nf3 Nxf3+ 7.Qxf3 d6 8.Nd5 Bxd2+ 9.Kxd2 Qg5+ 10.Ke1 Kf8 11.Nxc7 Qa5+ 12.Qc3 Qxc3+ 13.bxc3 Rb8 14.Nb5 Nf6 15.Nxd6 Ke7 16.e5 Ng4 17.f4 f6 Ulibin,M (2550)-Vlassov,N (2395)/Berlin 1996/CBM 054 ext/1-0 (45)

⁶⁹ **4.Nc3** Bb4 [4...Bc5 We develop our bishop on his best diagonal. 5.Bf4 White develops the bishop and attacks our knight. White develops his bishop with tempo. (5.Nf3 Ng4 6.Nd4 White protects the f2-pawn. d5 We strike in the center. 7.Nxd5 c6 8.f3 cxd5 9.fxg4 dxe4 Black has no problems. 6) 2.d4 3.dxe5-4.Nc3 #4) 5...Ng6 We attack the bishop with tempo. We retreat our knight with tempo. 6.Bg3 d6 Black reinforces his control over the e5-square. Before developing the knight to f6, we take control over the e5-square. 7.Qd2 (7.Bc4 Nf6 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 Bg4 Black has no problems at all. 6) 2.d4 3.dxe5-4.Nc3 #2) 7...Nf6 8.0-0-0 0-0 9.Bc4 Be6 10.Bb3 Bxb3 10...a5 Starting direct actions on the queenside was slightly better. 11.cxb3 Re8 12.f3 Qe7 13.Nge2 Rad8 Black mobilized all his pieces. 14.Kb1 c6 Black wants to use the misplaced queen on d2 to open the position. 15.Nd4 15.Qc2 Putting the queen away was preferable. d5 That doesn't prevent the strike in the center. 16.e5 Nh5 16...Nxe5 This invites unnecessary complications. 17.Rhe1 Now it is our queen which is misplaced. 17...Qc7 18.Nf5 White has compensation for the pawn. 17.Rhe1 Nxc3 18.hxc3 f6

White opens the position for his rooks and bishop. 19.exf6 Qxf6 20.Nc2 Qf7 21.b4 Bd6 22.f4 The bishop bites on granite and must be improved. Be7 The bishop is going to f6 where it will be active. 23.a3 White protects the b4-pawn and continues to put his pawns on the same color as our bishop. Bf6 24.Nd4 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Re8 Black wants to exchange heavy pieces and reach an endgame with the better minor pieces. 26.Rxe8+ Qxe8 27.Ka2 Nf8 Black reroutes his worst piece to a better square. 28.f5 This move weakens the e5-square. Qe5 Black immediately seizes the opportunity by setting up a battery. 29.Nce2 Qe4 30.Qf4 Bxd4 31.Nxd4 Qxf4 32.gxf4 h5 32...Kf7 Improving the position of the king was also possible. 33.a4 Kf7 34.Kb3 Kf6 35.a5 a6 36.Kc3 Nd7 37.Ne6 Kxf5 38.Nxg7+ Kxf4 38...Kg4! Followed by h4 wins the game immediately. 39.Nxh5+ Ke3 40.g4 d4+ 41.Kc2 d3+ 42.Kd1 Ne5 43.Ng3 43.g5 Ng4 and Nf2+ and d2 will end the game Nxg4 44.Nf5+ Kf4 45.Nd6 Nf2+ 46.Ke1 Ne4 47.Nc4 47.Nxb7 Ke3 And White is lost. Kf5 48.b3 Ke6 49.Nb2 Kd5 50.Nxd3 Kd4 51.Ke2 c5 52.b5 52.bxc5 Nxc5 53.Nc1 Kc3 And Black's king penetrates. axb5 53.Nf4 c4 54.bxc4 b4 55.Kd1 Kxc4 The rest is simple. 56.Kc2 Nc5 Black establishes a barrier against White's king. 57.Ne2 Kb5 58.Nd4+ Kxa5 59.Kb2 Ka4 60.Ne2 Kb5 61.Ng3 Kc4 62.Nf5 Na4+ 63.Kc2 b3+ 64.Kb1 Nc5 65.Nd6+ Kc3 66.Nb5+ Kb4 67.Nd6 b6 68.Nc8 b5 69.Na7 Na4 70.Nc6+ Ka3 71.Kc1

Nc3 7) 2.d4 3.dxe5: Model Games-Michalik, P]
 5.Qd4 Qe7 6.f4 Ng6 7.Be2 [7.Qxg7? Qxe4+ 8.Nge2 f6!#]
 7...d5! 8.f5 [8.exd5? Nf6 9.Nf3 0-0-+]
 8...Ne5 9.Bf4 Nc6 10.Qxg7 Qf6 11.Bh6? [11.Qxf6 Nxf6#]
 11...Qxh6! 12.Qxh8 Kf8 13.exd5? [13.a3! f6! 14.axb4 Ne5 15.Nxd5 Nf7 16.Qxg8+ Kxg8 17.Nf3 (17.Nxc7 Qh4+) 17...c6# 18.Nc7 Rb8 19.Rxa7 Qe3!]
 13...Be7! 14.Ne4 [14.dxc6? Bf6 15.Qxf6 Nxf6-+]
 14...Qh4+ 15.Kd1 Qxe4 16.Bf3 Qxf5 17.g4 Qe5 18.Qxe5 Nxe5 19.h3 Bf6 20.Be2 Ne7 21.c4 b5 22.cxb5 Bb7 23.Nf3 Nxd5 24.Nxe5 Bxe5 25.Kc1 Bf4+ 0-1 (25) Tscheremissin-Berjosin Moscow 1953 Schach-Echo [Schwarz, R.]

⁷⁰ **Δ5.Be3** d5 We will get our pawn back. 6.exd5 6.e4 allows 6...d4 6...Nb4 We will get our pawn back. The position is equal. However, two of the most common moves are mistakes. We will see how to punish them. 7.c4 Trying to keep the pawn doesn't work. 7...Bf5 We develop the bishop with tempo. 8.Na3 Qe7 Same for the queen. 9.Qd2 0-0-0 Black has a strong initiative. White cannot castle queenside because of #Nxa2. 10.0-0-0 That is suicide. 10...Nxa2# Oops! 6) 2.d4 3.dxe5-4.f4 #14
5.Bc4 White develops his bishop first 5...Nf6 James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: 'This strong move, from the IM-GM clash L.Shytaj-M.

Godena, Italian Championship, Marta Franca 2008, leads to very sharp play, not unfavourable to Black.'

[James Schuyler: 'Before this,'
 5...Bb4+ James Schuyler: 'was the standard reply, as played by E. Pedersen, Przewoznik, Miles and Hort, who scored one draw between them! (It was Miles.)']
 [James Schuyler: 'Not' 5...Bc5
 James Schuyler: '?' '?' James Schuyler: 'because of' 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Qd5+ James Schuyler: '']
 6.Nc3 James Schuyler: 'Shytaj's choice.'
 [James Schuyler: 'Only' 6.e5
 The most common move. James Schuyler: 'is critical, but Black has sufficient resources:' d5
 We take advantage of the position of White's bishop to strike in the center immediately. James Schuyler: '!' '!' 7.Bb3
 White keeps the bishop. (7.exf6 White gives up the important bishop. dxc4 8.Qe2+ That doesn't work at all. Be6 9.f5 White wants to exploit the pin, however: Nd4 Wins the game immediately. 10.Qe4 Qd5 White is doomed. 6) 2.d4 3.dxe5-4.f4 #13) 7...Ng4 We want to continue with ...Bc5. Our d5-pawn is en prise.
A) 8.Qxd5 White takes the pawn and threatens checkmate on f7. Qxd5 9.Bxd5 Nd4
 We are threatening the c2-pawn. 10.Be4 White protects the c2-pawn. Bf5 We want to exchange the defender of the c2-pawn. 11.Bxf5 Nxf5 We already know this line from our theory chapter. This endgame is slightly better for Black because of his active knights and the

weaknesses in White's position. Let's see how to convert this slight advantage. 12.Na3 12.Nc3 is best. 12...O-O-O We develop the rook on the d-file. 13.Nf3 Bc5 We develop the bishop and target the weak dark squares. 14.Ne4 White doesn't fall into passivity and attacks the bishop. 14...Bb6 15.c4 White wants to trap our bishop at some point. 15...f6 We undermine the e-pawn and are ready to activate our rook along the e-file. 16.Bd2 Now, the threat of the bishop getting trapped is real 16...Nd6! We attack the e4-knight and the c4-pawn. 17.exd6 Rhe8 We will get our material back soon. All our pieces are activated while White rooks aren't connected yet. Black is better. (12.h3 Nge3 Black has too many threats. 6) 2.d4 3.dxe5-4.f4 #8) 12...Bxa3 Black destroys White's structure. 13.bxa3 White's queenside pawns are long-term weaknesses. Nd4 Black threatens to win the rook. White's king can't protect the c2-pawn easily because of the f2-weakness. 14.Rb1 White sacrifices the c2-pawn and threaten the b7-pawn. Nxc2+ 15.Ke2 Nd4+ 16.Ke1 0-0-0 Black defends the b7-pawn. Despite the material equality, Black is better because of White's weak queenside pawns. 17.h3 Nh6 18.Kf2 Nhf5 19.g4 Ne7 20.Ne2 h5 21.Bb2 Nxe2 22.Kxe2 Rh6 Black activates his rook. 23.f5 Ra6 24.Rbd1 Re8 Exchanging rooks would only help White. Black needs both rooks to attack White's weaknesses. 25.Kf3 g6

Black undermines White's structure and starts putting his pawns on light squares. 26.Kf4 gxf5 27.gxf5 Rg8 Black immediately takes control over the g-file. 28.Rd4 28.Rdg1 Trying to contest the rook doesn't work because after 28...Ra4+ 29.Kf3 The f5-pawn will fall. c6 Almost all of our pawns are on light squares. The b2-bishop doesn't have any target. 29.Rc1 Rg2 The rook is powerful on the second rank. The rest is a matter of technique: 30.Ba1 Rf2+ 31.Kg3 Rxf5 White's position collapses. 32.a4 Rxe5 33.Rf4 Re3+ 34.Kf2 Re6 35.Rc5 f5 36.Bg7 Kd7 37.Bf8 Nd5 38.Rh4 Ke8 39.Bg7 Kf7 40.Ba1 Rh6 40...Kg6 was best. It's better to keep the rook active as much as possible. 41.Rc1 f4 42.Rc4 b5 43.Rcxf4+ Nxf4 44.Rxf4+ Ke8 This model game is instructive to see how to convert a slightly better endgame by putting pressure on long-term weaknesses. Black didn't rush and improved all of his pieces to their best squares. 7) 2.d4 3.dxe5: Model Games-Kjartansson,G;

B) 8.Bxd5 This seems to be the right way. White wants to keep the queens on the board. 8...Bb4+ This allows us to develop with tempo. Next, we want to put out bishop on c5 and castle kingside. 9.Nc3 (James Schuyler: 'or' 9.c3 Bc5 10.Bxc6+ is solid and okay for Black bxc6 is premature: 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.Ne2 Bf2+ 13.Kf1 Bb6 14.Nd4 and with his bishop pair White is better, I. Ibragimov - Wojtkiewicz, Connecticut 2004. f6

allows the thematic 15.exf6 Ba6+ 16.Kg1 and White has the initiative. Re8 17.Bd2 Re4 18.fxg7 Ke7 19.g3 Bd3 James Schuyler: 'with dangerous play – Black's light-squared bishop is an absolute monster with dangerous play - Black's light-squared bishop is an absolute monster') 9...0-0 We put the king into safety. James Schuyler: '!' '!' 10.Bxc6 The position is more or less equal. Qxd1+ 11.Kxd1 bxc6 12.Ke2 (12.Ke1 f6 We open the position for our rooks and bishops. We have good compensations for the pawn. 6) 2. d4 3.dxe5-4.f4 #11) 12...f6!? James Schuyler: '!' '!' 13.h3 Nh6 The tricky idea fails to make an impression on the black position. 14.Nf3! Nf5 15.Ne4 fxe5 16.fxe5= The weakness of the b2-pawn makes the position drawish. I like this new idea, because after 16...Be6 17.Bd2 Bxd2 18.Kxd2 Rad8+ 19.Kc3 White retained serious pressure in Babula - Miton, Czech Republic 2011. I also examined 19...Ne3 , when Black may respond actively: 20.Nd4! Bd5 21.Nc5 Bxg2 22.Rhg1 Nd5+ 23.Kc4 and Black has a comfortable game. Ne3+ 24.Kc3 James Schuyler: 'with a draw.']

6...Bb4 7.Nge2

[James Schuyler: 'Here' 7.e5 d5 8.exf6 dxc4 , he easily regains the pawn by

A) James Schuyler: ', and' 9.Qe2+ James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' Kf8 James Schuyler: '!' '!' (9...Be6 James Schuyler: 'is also good')

10.Be3 Qxf6 with equality. 11.0-0-0 Be6 James Schuyler: 'was better for Black, who went on to win in M. Orso-G.Bordas, Budapest 2000 (see Game 48). Go Bordas!';

B) 9.Qxd8+ James Schuyler: 'improves for White, when' Kxd8 10.fxg7 This thematic simplifying idea equalizes easily. Rg8 11.Be3 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 and Black already had the more comfortable position in Braun - Naumann, Bad Woerishofen 2008. Rxg7 13.Kf2 Bf5 14.Rd1+ Kc8 15.Rd2!?N b6 James Schuyler: 'is equal.';

C) 9.--!

7...Nxe4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' [7...d6

James Schuyler: 'is equal; Godena finds more.']

8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Qd5+ Kf8 10.Qxe4 d5 James Schuyler: 'A sharp reversal of fortune has occurred in the centre, and this is far more important than any minor inconvenience suffered by Black's king.' 11.Qf3 Qh4+ James Schuyler: '!' '!' 12.g3 This position commonly arises from 11.Re1 Na6 12.Nf3. 12...Bg4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: 'After seeing this, Godena is my new hero.' 13.Qd3 White has tried two other moves here: James Schuyler: '?' '?' James Schuyler: 'White, who is suffering badly, may as well take a pawn for his troubles.'

[13.Qxd5 James Schuyler: 'is not clearly losing, whereas the text move is.']

13...Qh5 14.0-0?! An interesting but risky decision. 14...d4 James Schuyler: '?!' '?!'

[14...Re8 James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: 'allows less counterplay:' 15.Be3 d4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 16.Nxd4! (=+) was certainly not White's intention. Rxe3N is an important alternative. Black should not be afraid to play 17.Qxe3 , as after Nxd4 18.Qd3 Nf3+ 19.Rxf3 Bxf3 James Schuyler: '!']

15.f5 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 15...dxc3

16.Nf4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 16...Qf7

17.Ne6+ Kg8 18.bxc3 Bd6! 19.Qe4

This all occurred in Eljanov - Ivanchuk, Nalchik 2009, and here Black missed an elegant tactical trick: 19...Ne5!N White now has nothing better than: 20.Qxb7 Re8

21.Nd4 Black can neutralize White's initiative by giving back the exchange. 21...c5 22.Qa6 cxd4

23.Qxd6 Nf3+ 24.Kg2 Qb7 N,N-11.Nf3 James Schuyler: 'White has had enough. Did I mention that Godena is my new hero?'

⁷¹ **5...d6N** 6.Bc4 Be7 7.Nc3 Be6 8.Bb5 Nf6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Nd4 Bd7 12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ng4 14.Bf4 Bg5 15.e6! Ne3 16.Bxg5 Qxg5 17.Qd2 fxe6 18.Rfe1 e5 19.Nb3 Rf3! 20.Ne4 Qxg2+ 21.Qxg2 Nxc2 22.Kxc2 Rf8 23.Nbd2 Bh3+ 24.Kg1 R3f4 25.Re3 Bf5 26.Rf1 Be6 27.Rxf4 exf4 28.Ra3 Re8 29.Rxa7 Bd5 30.Ra4 h6 31.h4 Re5 32.Kf2 g5 33.hxg5 hxg5 34.Kf3 Bf7 35.Nf6+ Kg7 36.Nde4 Kg6 37.b4?

[37.Ng4+-]

37...Kf5 38.Ra5 Bd5 39.Nxd5 cxd5 40.Nf2 Re3+ 41.Kg2 Ke6 42.c4 Rg3+ 43.Kf1 dxc4 44.Rc5 Ra3 45.Rxc7 Rxa2 46.Rxc4 Rb2 47.Nd3 Rb1+

48.Ke2 Rb3 49.Nc5+ Kd5 50.Re4
Rb2+ 51.Kd3 f3 Source: The
Providence Journal 23/12/1923
½-½ (51) Alekhine,A-Gomberg,M
New York 1923 EXT 2021
[ChessBase II]

⁷² **6.Bc4** White does the same and
targets the f7-pawn. White does the
same and targets our f7-pawn.

6...Nf6

[6...d6 We take some control over the
e5-square before developing our
knight to f6. 7.Qe2 (7.Ng5
White put pressure on the f7-square.
Nh6 The most simple. 7...Nf6 is an
interesting idea and novelty. But it
leads to unnecessary complications,
so let's keep things simple! 8.Qh5
The most common move. 0-0 9.Nc3
Bg4 10.Qh4 Nd4 Black has too many
threats. 6) 2.d4 3.dxe5-4.f4 #3; 7.Nc3
Nf6 Next, we want to continue with ...
O-O and ...Re8 with easy play. For
instance, the game could continue: 8.
e5 dxe5 9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.fxe5
Nd7 11.Bf4 O-O followed by ...Nb6
and ...Ne6. Black has no problems.
8.Qe2 White wants to play Be3
followed by O-O-O next. 0-0 9.Be3
Bb4 We prevent White to castle long.
10.e5 The best continuation. dxe5
11.fxe5 Ng4 Black is slightly better. 6)
2.d4 3.dxe5-4.f4 #2) 7...Nf6 8.Be3
White challenges our strong bishop
immediately. Bxe3 9.Qxe3 Be6
10.Bb5 This is also a logical
continuation. 0-0 We finish our
development. Next, we can continue
with ...Nb4-idea followed by ...c6.
11.Bxc6 White prevents our idea and
spoils our pawn structure. bxc6
The b-line is now opened. 12.Nc3

12.O-O Qb8 (putting pressure on the
b2-pawn) 13.b3 Re8 followed by
either ...Bf5 or ...Bd5 Re8
We have ideas like ...Bd5. 13.0-0-0
Qb8 Next, we want to continue with ...
Qb8-Qb7 followed by ...Rab8. White
will play b3 at some point, and we
will undermine his structure with either
...a5-a4-a3 or ...c5-c4. 6) 2.d4 3.dxe5-
4.f4 #7]

7.e5 Qe7 8.Qe2 Ng4 9.h3 Nh6?

[♠9...Nd4 10.Nxd4 Qh4+]

10.Nc3 Nf5 11.Nd5 Qd8 12.Ng5!! Ng3

[12...0-0 13.Qh5 Nh6 14.Bd3]

13.Qg4 Nxh1 14.Nxf7! d6

[14...Kxf7 15.Nf6+ Kf8 16.Nxh7+!+-]

15.Qxg7?

[15.e6!]

15...Qh4+ 16.Kd1 Nf2+ 17.Ke2 Qh5+!

[17...Nd4+ 18.Kf1 Ne4 19.Nxc7+
Kd7 20.Nxd6+ Kc6 21.Bd5+ Kb6
22.Nc4#]

18.g4 Bxg4+ 19.Ke1

[19.hxg4 Qh1]

19...Ne4 20.Nxc7+ Kd7 21.Nxh8+ Kc8!

[21...Ne7]

22.Qxg4+ Qxg4 23.hxg4 Kxc7 24.Nf7
dxe5 25.Nxe5

[25.fxe5]

25...Bf2+ 26.Kf1 Nxe5 27.fxe5 Bg3

28.Bd3 Rf8+ 29.Kg1 Nf2 30.Bf5 h5!

31.Kg2 Bxe5 32.Bh6 Rh8 33.Kxf2

Rxh6 ½-½ (33) Riha-Alster,R

corr_161319 1946 UltraCorr3a
[Alster, R.]

⁷³ **6...a6** 7.Bc4

[7.Qe2 d6 8.Be3 Bxe3 9.Qxe3 Nf6
10.0-0-0]

7...d6 8.f5! h6 9.Bf4 Nf6 10.Qe2

[10.e5 Nh5]

10...0-0 11.0-0-0 Re8 12.Qd3 Nb4

6...Nf6 7.e5 Ng4 8.Bc4

[8.Ne4 Bb6 9.Bc4 d5 10.Qxd5 Qe7 (10...Qxd5) 11.h3 Be6 12.Qb5 a6 13.Qa4 Bxc4 14.Qxc4 Ne3 15.Bxe3 Bxe3 16.g3 0-0-0]

8...d6 9.Ng5

[9.Ne4 Be3 10.exd6 0-0 (10...Bxc1) 11.Bxe3 Nxe3 12.Qe2 Nxc4 13.Qxc4 cxd6 14.0-0-0 Be6 15.Qb5 d5 16.f5 a6 17.Qc5 Bxf5 18.Rxd5 Qe7 19.Nd6 Be6 20.Rd2 Bxa2 21.b3 Qf6 22.Nd4 a5]

9...0-0 10.h3 Nh6 11.Na4 Bb6 12.Nxb6 axb6 13.0-0 dxe5 14.Qxd8 Rxd8 15.fxe5 Nxe5 16.Bb3 c5 17.Bf4 c4

⁷⁴ **7...Bb6** 8.Nxb6 axb6 9.Bd3 Nf6

[9...d5]

10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1

[11.Bd2 d5 12.e5 Ne4 occurred in the more recent game Stachanczyk - Boudriga, Tromso (ol) 2014. Here I like the thematic 13.Be1!N when Black has a great position. White cannot even force a structural concession with Nc5 in view of 14.f5 (Black is better) Nxd3 15.Qxd3 Qe7 16.Bc3 Qc5+ 17.Kh1 Qc4]

[11.b3 Bd7 12.Bb2 Nb4 13.Qd2 Nxd3 14.cxd3 c5 15.f5 Bc6 16.Qg5 h6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Qxf6 gxf6 19.Nd2 d5 20.Rf4 dxe4 21.dxe4 b5 22.Nf1 c4 23.bxc4 bxc4 24.Ng3 Ra6 25.Nh5 Ba4 26.Rc1 b5 27.Rc3 Rd8 28.Rg4+ Kf8 29.Nf4 Bd1 30.Rh4 Rd2 31.a3 Bb3 32.Rxh6 Rxa3 33.h4 b4 34.Rc1 Kg7 35.Rh5 Capablanca, J-McGuire, M New Orleans 1911 0-1]

11...-- **N,N-15.f4**

[11...Re8 12.e5]

[11...Nb4 12.Bd2 (12.Bc4!N Keeping complete control. In an

absolute sense, Black is already winning. Be6) 12...Nxd3 13.cxd3 c5 This was Judit Polgar's try in her game against Magnus Carlsen. However, it should be mentioned that it was only a rapid game; I doubt that she would have chosen this line in a standard game. 14.a4 b5 15.axb5 Rxa1 16.Qxa1 Bd7 In J. Polgar - Carlsen, Mainz (rapid) 2008, Magnus continued ignoring White's kingside intentions. However, I am sure that in a long-play game he would have chosen:]

8.Bd2 Bxd2+ 9.Qxd2 Bg4 10.Be2 Nf6 11.Nc3 Qe7

[Δ11...Qd7]

12.0-0-0 0-0-0 13.h3

[13.Rhe1]

13...Bd7 14.Rhe1

[14.Bd3 Nb4 15.Bc4]

14...Nxe4! 15.Nxe4 Qxe4 16.Ng5

[16.Bd3 Qa4]

16...Qg6 17.Bc4

[17.Bd3 f5 (17...Bf5? 18.Bc4 Rdf8 19.g4 Bd7) 18.g4 Rde8 19.Ne6 (19.Bc4 Nd8) 19...Bxe6 20.Rxe6 Rxe6 21.gxf5 Qe8 22.fxe6 Qxe6±]

17...Rhf8

[Δ17...Rdf8 18.g4 h6 19.Bd3 Qf6 20.Ne4 (20.Nh7 Rxh7 21.Bxh7 g6) 20...Qd4]

18.g4 f5

[18...h6 19.Bd3 f5 20.gxf5 Qh5 (20...Bxf5 21.Ne6) 21.Ne6 (21.Nh7 Rf7) 21...Bxe6 22.fxe6 Rde8 23.f5 Ne5 (23...Ne7 24.Qa5 Kb8 25.Be4) 24.Be4]

19.Ne6!

[19.gxf5 Bxf5 20.Be6+ Kb8 21.Bxf5 Rxf5]

[19.Be6

A) 19...fxg4 20.f5 (20.hxg4 h6)

20...Qh5 21.hxg4 Qxg4 22.Rg1
(≤22.f6; ≤22.Nxh7) 22...Qa4;

B) 19...h6 20.gxf5 Qh5 21.Ne4
(21.Nh7 Rh8) 21...Bxe6 22.fxe6
Qxh3 23.Nc3 Rde8]

19...fxg4!

[19...Bxe6 20.Bxe6+ Kb8 21.gxf5⇒
(21.g5; ≤21.Bxf5 Qf7)]

20.Nxf8

[20.Nxd8 Kxd8]

20...Rxf8 21.hxg4 Bxg4 22.Rg1 h5
23.Rde1 Qf6 24.Re4!

[≤24.Ref1]

24...Bf5 25.Re3 Bg4 26.Rf1

[26.Re4□ Bf3? 27.Ree1 Qxf4
28.Qxf4 Rxf4 29.Be6+ Kd8
30.Rxg7]

26...a6 27.f5!/? Ne5 28.Be6+ Kb8

29.Qb4 Qg5 30.Rfe1 Bxf5 31.Bd5 Bc8

32.Kb1 a5 33.Qxa5?

[33.Qb5 Qd8 34.Qxa5 (34.Bxb7
Bxb7 35.Rb3 Qc8) 34...c6 35.Qxd8
Rxd8 36.Be4 g5-+]

[33.Rxe5 Qxe5]

33...Nc4 34.Re5 Qxe5 35.Rxe5 Nxa5

36.Re1 h4 37.b4 Nc6 38.Rg1 Nxb4

39.Bb3 h3 0-1 (39) Sachs,R-Hesse,H
Ohio 1948 [Hesse, H.]

23.Be2 Qe6 24.Rxd5 Qxd5 25.Nd4

Qe4+ 26.Kc1 Rxg3 27.f5 Ne5

28.Bd1 Nc4 0-1 (28) Mac-Cording,H

corr_157298 1964 UltraCorr3a

[Cording, H.]]

[7.Bc4]

7...Bb6 8.Qd2

[8.Bxb6]

8...c6?! 9.Na3 N8e7 10.f5

[10.Bd3! Salvioli]

10...Nf8 11.Bxb6 axb6 12.0-0-0?

[12.Qd6±]

12...d5! 13.exd5

[13.c4!]

13...Bxf5 14.d6 Neg6 15.Bc4 Ne6

16.Rhe1 0-0 17.h3 b5 18.Bb3 Nc5

19.Nd4 Nxb3+ 20.Nxb3 b6 21.Nd4

Bd7 22.Nf3

[22.g4 Salvioli]

22...c5 23.Kb1 Ra4 24.Nc2 Qf6 25.b3

Ra7 26.Ne3 Rfa8 27.Nd5 Qf5+

28.Qd3 Rxa2 29.Re8+! Bxe8! 30.Qxf5

Ra1+ 31.Kc2 R8a2+ 32.Kd3 Rxd1+

33.Ke3 c4 34.d7?

[Δ34.bxc4 bxc4 35.Nb4 Salvioli]

34...Bxd7 35.Qxd7 Rd3+ 36.Ke4 Re2+

37.Kf5 Rxd5+ 0-1 (37) Lowenthal,J-

Kennedy,H London 1853 Chess...

Ancient & Modern [Myers, H.]

⁷⁵ **5.Be3** Cording, H.: '[L.Pachman]'

5...Bb4+ 6.c3

[6.Nd2 d5 7.e5? d4!]

[6.Nc3 Nf6 7.e5 Qe7 8.Qf3 Nh4!]

6...Ba5 7.Nf3

[7.Qf3? d5↑ 8.exd5 Nf6 9.h3 0-0

10.Nd2 Nxd5 11.0-0-0 Nxe3

12.Qxe3 Bb6 13.Qf3 Qf6 14.g3 Re8

15.Nc4 Be6 16.Bd3 c6 17.Qh5

Red8 (17...Rad8 18.Nxb6 axb6)

18.Qe2 Bd5 19.Nf3 Re8 20.Qf1

Be3+ 21.Kb1 (21.Nxe3 Rxe3

22.Be2 Bxa2 23.-- ΔRxc3+) 21...b5

22.Nxe3? (22.Nce5) 22...Rxe3

⁷⁶ **6.f5** Nh4 7.Bc4 Nxf3+ 8.Qxf3 d6

9.Be3 Bxe3 10.Qxe3 Nf6 11.Nc3 Qe7

12.0-0-0 Bxf5 13.Rhf1 Bg6 14.Rde1

0-0 15.h3 Rfe8 16.Bd3 c6 17.Qf3 Nd7

18.g4 Ne5 19.Qg3 f6 20.h4 h6

21.Rg1 Rf8 22.Re2 b5 23.Reg2 a6

24.Nd1 c5 25.Ne3 c4 26.Nd5 Qd8

27.g5 fxg5 28.hxg5 cxd3 29.gxh6 Rf3

30.Qh2 Rc8 31.hxg7 Kxg7 32.c3 Rf6

33.Rh1 Rf3 34.Rxg6+ Nxg6 35.Qh7+

Kf8 36.Qxg6 1-0 (36) Lasker,E-Elwell,J

New York_338865 1893

⁷⁷ **8.Nc3** 0-0 9.Na4 Qf6 10.Qd2 Qd4 11.Bb3 Bb4 12.c3 Qxd2+ 13.Bxd2 Ba5 14.Bc2 c6 15.h3 f5 16.b4 Bc7 17.Bb3+ Kh8 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.0-0 Rae8 20.Rfe1 d5 21.g3 b5 22.Nc5 Bb6 23.Kg2 Bxc5 24.bxc5 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Bd7 26.a4 bxa4 27.Bxa4 Nf7 28.Nf3 Re8 29.Rb1 Nd8 30.Nd4 Kg8 31.Rb8 Ne7 32.g4 Kf8 33.f5 h6 34.Bf4 Nc8 35.Bc7 Ke7 36.Bxd8+ Kxd8 37.Rb7 Re3 38.Bxc6 Bxc6 39.Nxc6+ Ke8 40.Rxg7 Rxc3 41.Rc7 Rxc5 42.Rxc8+ Kd7 43.Nxa7 1-0 (43) Steiner,E-Mikenas,V Kemerl 1937

⁷⁸ **4...Bb4+** This weird move has some followers. Trying to provoke c3, after which the b1-Knight won't have the natural square. 5.Bd2 As a rule the exchange of the dark-squared bishops shouldn't bother us. There is no need to play c3 when we can just gain a small lead in development. 5...Bxd2+

[5...Nxf3+ 6.Qxf3 Bxd2+ 7.Nxd2 Preparing to castle long next. d6 8.0-0-0 Nf6 Threatening ...Bg4! 9.h3 We are ready to push on the Kingside with g4-g5 followed by pushing the h-pawn, with a steady initiative. 9. Nimzowitsch-Nimzowitch Nc6]

6.Qxd2 The b1-knight belongs on c3 where it control the key central e4/d5 squares. 6...Nxf3+ 7.gxf3 The open g-file is a welcome addition for creating play against our enemy king. 7...Qf6 A cute double attack on b2 and f3.

8.Nc3 Of course we would be happy to give up the f3-pawn making sure that Black's remaining pieces don't join the fight. We continue with O-O-

O, f4, and Rg1 with a dominating advantage. 15) Owen and His Relatives-Nimzowitsch Defense Nc6

4...Qf6 Black is trying to hold on to his beautiful knight on e5. has been played in a few games. Black hopes that his active Queen will help him solve his opening problems. Going for an endgame with 4...d6 is also possible. 5.Nc3 We don't waste on time on worrying about Nxf3 and continue with speedy development. The threat of Nd5 doesn't leave much options for Black.

[5.Nxe5 The most common move. Black has no problems at all. Qxe5 6.Nc3

White defends the e4-pawn with his knight. (6.Bd3 White defends the e4-pawn with his bishop. d5 We strike in the center immediately, 7.0-0 dxe4 8.Bxe4 Bd6 We develop the bishop with tempo as we are threatening checkmate. 9.f4 Qc5+ 10.Kh1 Nf6 ...O-O is coming next. Black's position is preferable. 6) 2.d4 3.dxe5-4.Nf3 #2) 6...Bb4 We renew our threat against the e4-pawn by pinning the knight. 7.Bd3 d5 We strike in the center. 8.0-0 Bxc3 9.bxc3 dxe4 10.Bxe4 Nf6 We will castle next. White has the bishop pair advantage in exchange for the doubled pawns. 6) 2.d4 3.dxe5-4.Nf3 #5]

5...Bb4 Pinning the c3-knight and stopping Nd5. 5...Nxf3+ 6.gxf3 was clearly better for White due to Black's poor development and no existing pension plan for the future as seen in CCStartBracket CCTari-Djurhuus 2017 CCEndBracket CC. 6.Bd2 Unpinning the knight and

renewing the threat of Nd5. White is simply preparing the moves Qe2 followed by castling long. 6...Ne7 Our World Champion Magnus Carlsen went for this line in one of the rapid CCT events :CC EndBracket CC . I just don't know what to say... CCStartBracket CC Wesley-Carlsen M e l t w a t e r R a p i d 2021CCEndBracketCC.

[6...Nxf3+ 7.gxf3 Unpinning the knight. Next on the agenda is Qe2 followed by long castle. The best option. Ne7 For instance, the game could continue: 8.Qe2 White is all set to castle long. Ng6 (8...0-0 9.0-0-0 Followed by Rg1 and once again White's attack is too powerful. Chapter Offbeat Openings-Nimzowitsch Defence With; 8...b6 We will continue with ...Bb7 and ...O-O-O. 9.0-0-0 Bb7 10.Kb1 0-0-0 11.Rg1 h6 Preventing the Bg5-idea. White is slightly better, but we have our chances. 6) 2.d4 3. dxe5-4.Nf3 #7) 9.0-0-0 c6 10.Kb1 Bd6 11.h4 Nf4 12.Qe3 Ne6 13.Ne2 followed by f3-f4, with total control in Morozov,D -Schrancz,I 2013. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... e5 #1] [6...c6 7.Nxe5 Qxe5 8.Qe2 Very logical. White defends e4 while preparing to castle quickly. After d6 9.a3 Ba5 10.f4 Qe7 11.0-0-0 Nf6 12.Re1 0-0 13.Qf3 Re8 14.Bd3 White has very pleasant play. He can break in the center with e4-e5, or prepare to push his Kingside pawns with h3-g4 etc. Nimzowitsch Defence-N,N]

7.Nxe5 Qxe5 8.Bd3 followed by O-O, a3, and f4 with a big advantage due to our powerful initiative. 15) Owen

and His Relatives-Nimzowitsch Defense Nc6

4...d6 This is the most solid reply for Black. 4...Qf6 was played in an online game of So-MVL 2020 and Wesley won a effortless game after 5.Nc3 Nxf3 6.Qxf3 and White is way ahead in development. The text move with 4...d6 tries to hold the knight on e5 not fearing the exchange of queens after 5.Nxe5 as it only helps Black to trade off pieces. 5.Nc3 5.Nxe5 dxe5 6. Qxd8+ Kxd8 7.Bc4 Ke8 8.Be3 is perhaps slightly better for White in the ending, but I'm not sure if my readers would prefer to play the endgame or the middlegame. If you like playing the endgame, then by all means you may take on e5 and exchange Queens. 5...Nf6 5...Bg4 will be met by 6.Be2 or 6. h3 and Black is worse in both cases. 6.Nd4 White moves the Knight to a good location in the center, and prepares to gain space on the Kingside with f2-f4. This would be my choice, but there is a good alternative as well. White also has the option to head for the endgame: 6.Be3 Be7 7.Nxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8+ Bxd8 9.Bc4 c6 10. a4 Bb6 If 10...Ba5 11.f3 supports the squares e4 and g4, when White continues next with Ke2 and possibly Rhb1 (with the idea b2-b4) with a slightly better ending. 11.Ke2 White has a small edge in the ending due to his extra space and slightly more active pieces. Later he fights for control over the d-file and he can improve the position of his Knight. Keeping

pieces on. Black is probably OK after 6.Nxe5 dxe5 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 8.f4 Bd6, since the exchange of knights has left him a little less cramped. That said, this is still a valid option for White and one where he should probably explore space-gaining ventures with 9.f5!?

[6.Bf4 Here Wesley mentioned 6.Nd4 in his course which is also interesting, but 6.Bf4 questions the knight on e5 immediately. Ng6 7.Bg3 Be7 8.Qd2 Planning long castle next. 0-0 9.0-0-0 So both sides have done opposite side castling and now the race to who gets to the opposing king faster begins. White will play h4 next with the intention of h5 to attack the g6-knight and as well to create an attack on the king. Black will try to chip in the ...b5 advance to create some play on the queenside. Let's see who is faster or who is more effective! a6 10.h4 h5 is on the cards next. Nh5 If 10...Bg4 stopping h5, but we can respond with 11.Be2 b5 and 12.Nd4 exchanging the key defender and Black is collapsing here. 11.Bh2 Nf6 Coming back now that the h-file is closed and we are not able to play h5 as our bishop on h2 is hindering the rook on h1. If the direct 11...b5 then 12.Nd5 was the problem as the knight on c3 is activated and wreaks havoc on Black's position. Black's h5-knight is also on the rim and is doomed when our knight arrives on d5. That is the reason Black returns his knight back to f6 to keep control over the d5-square but we have other plans here. 12.Nd4 With the follow up of f3-g4 and we are cruising through.

Chapter Offbeat Openings - Nimzowitsch Defence With]

6...c6

[6...Be7 6...Bd7 7.f4 Nc6 8.Nf3 would keep pieces on and should be slightly better for White, no matter where Black places his dark-squared bishop. Bd3 and O-O would be a simple continuation for White, Be3, Qd2 and O-O-O an even more aggressive one. 7.f4 If

A) 7...Ned7 White plays the accurate 8.Be2 preparing to defend e4 and to put the Bishop on the long diagonal with Bf3. (8.Qf3 The most aggressive post for the queen. 8.Be2 followed by O-O, Bf3 and Be3 also makes good sense as a set-up. 0-0 9.Be3 Once again we find White prioritizing queenside castling and Black looking a little low on counterplay. Moreover, he can't really go in for an approach which pressures e4: Nc5 10.h3 Taking control of a key square to facilitate castling. Re8 11.0-0-0 Bf8 12.e5 The line-up of rook and queen on the d-file proves unsurprisingly unpleasant for Black, who is already in serious trouble: 12...dxe5 12...Nfd7 13.exd6 followed by Nf5. 13.Nc6! not the most common way of winning a queen or White's only good move, but of course, after, say, 13...bxc6 14.Rxd8 Rxd8 15.fxe5 Nd5 16.Bc4 White should really be winning, not least with 16...Be6 17.Bxc5 Bxc5 18.Ne4 retaining full control of the position and leaving only White likely to attack after Re1 and Ng5 or even Qg3 and Nf6+.

Nimzowitsch G1: 2...d6-G1: 2...d6 #17) 8...0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Bf3 Bf8 11.Re1 Black's main counterplay in this position is to attack the e4-pawn, so we have to make sure to take steps in order to prevent that counterplay. After Nc5 (11...Nb6 12.b3 c6 13.Bb2 a5 14.a4 g6 15.h3 White takes away the g4-square from Black's pieces, and simply prepares Qd2 followed by Rad1, with some pressure. Nimzowitsch Defence-N,N) 12.Nb3 Nxb3 13.axb3 c6 14.Be3 Be6 15.Bf2 I'm not saying that White has much of an advantage, but his position is definitely easier to play with his extra space and pressure on the d6-pawn. Nimzowitsch Defence-N,N;

B) 7...Nc6 Now White can take on c6 followed by Bd3 with some edge, but also good is 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Nf3 0-0 10.0-0 with control over the center and more space for White. a6 11.Bd3

B1) 11...Nb4 12.Be2 d5

This is the idea behind Black's last move, as otherwise White just kicks the enemy Knight back with a3. 13.e5 After Bc5+ (13...Ne4 14.Be3 Black's counterplay is easily held off for the moment. Nimzowitsch Defence-N,N) 14.Kh1 Ng4 15.a3 We finally manage to push the enemy Knight back. Nc6 16.Qe1 Keeping the f2-square firmly defended. Black's d5-pawn is hanging and therefore he has no time to develop an initiative. Bf5 17.b4 Here White has many good moves, but this is good

enough. It pushes the enemy Bishop back and gains some space on the Queenside. Bd4 18.h3 Nh6 19.Qd2 White grabs the Bishop pair thanks to the weakness of the d5-pawn. Bxc3 20.Qxc3 f6 Now White can develop the bishop to the a1-h8 diagonal with 21.Bb2 , but I recommend 21.Bd2 fxe5 22.fxe5 White has the Bishop pair and control over the dark-squares. He is going to play Rae1 next, supporting his advanced pawn on e5. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... e5 #10;

B2) 11...Re8 12.a3 Bf8 13.h3 g6 14.Bd2 Bg7 15.Be1 After some manoeuvring, White moves his Bishop to a stronger diagonal. He is threatening Bh4, causing a deadly pin on the Knight and creating some threats on Black's Kingside. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... e5 #11]

[6...c5 creates a permanent weakening on Black's light-squares and in particular the d5-square: 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Bxd7+ Qxd7 9.Nf3 Be7 10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.Bg5 the endgame is horrible for Black, as he has an eternal weakness on the d5-square. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... e5 #12]

7.f4 If 7...Ng6 **White plays**

[7...Ned7 8.Be2 White prepares to support his center with Bf3 and Be3. As long as he keeps the e4-pawn firmly defended, then Black is devoid of counterplay. g6 9.0-0 Bg7 10.Bf3 0-0 11.Be3 Re8 12.Re1 Nc5 13.Bf2

a5 14.Qd2 a4 15.h3 White takes away the square g4- from Black's pieces, hereby preventing ...Bg4 or ...Ng4. Qa5 16.Rab1 White protects b2 in advance, and later he may consider the move b2-b4 next, challenging the excellent position of Black's Queen on a5. Nimzowitsch Defence-N, N]

8.g3 supporting his center with Bg2. The chance to break in the center does not fully equalize: 8...d5 9.e5 Ng4 10.h3 Nh6 11.Qf3 My original intention was 11.Be3 but then Bb4 is more complex than I thought. Black threatens to ruin our pawn structure on the Queenside, or start counterplay with ...c6-c5. 11...Nf5 12.Nxf5 Bxf5 13.Bd3 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 f6 15.exf6 Qxf6 16.Bd2 0-0-0 17.0-0-0 Bd6 18.Rhe1 Rhe8 19.Ne2 Black played accurately in the middlegame and is very close to equalizing, however, the misplaced Knight on g6 still gives White some hopes of maintaining the pressure. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2...e5 #13

4...Bd6 looks unnatural, and after the moves 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Nb5 Black is forced to give up the contest over the e5-square. 6...Nxf3+ 7.gxf3 Be7 8.Rg1 0-0 9.Bh6 Ne8 10.Qd2 Kh8 11.Be3 White follows up by castling long, with a clearly better position. Nimzowitsch Defence-N,N

⁷⁹ **5.gxf3** 5.Qxf3 is also possible but not that effective compared to 5.gxf3 due to a number of reasons. White is anyway planning to castle long so gxf3 opens the g-file for the

rook and the center is strengthened as well. Opening up the g-file while supporting White's e4 center. White does not mind the weakening of his pawns, for he is planning to castle Queenside anyway. 5...Bc5

[5...g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 d6 8.Qd2 Nf6 9.0-0-0 Be6 10.Rg1 White intends to play f3-f4 next move, with the threat of opening up the g-file later. Nimzowitsch Defence-N,N]

6.Rg1 Like I mentioned before, the g-file can be utilized thanks to gxf3. White immediately puts pressure on the g7-square. 6...Qh4 7.Qe2 Not allowing a mate in one :CCEndBracket CC. 7...Ne7 8.Nc3 If we take on g7 with 8.Rxg7 then 8...Ng6 blocks the rook and we are not in time to bring our pieces to save it. White has annoying pressure on Black's position. 8.Rxg7 leads to a complex position after Ng6 as the Rook on g7 finds itself trapped. 8...0-0 If 8...Qxh2 now we can take on g7 by 9.Rxg7 Ng6 10.Nd5 and Rxg6 followed by Bf4 is a strong threat :CCEndBracket CC. 9.Bg5 Qxh2

10.Rg2 And White's attack is extremely powerful with all the pieces perfectly in commanding positions. Chapter Offbeat Openings-Nimzowitsch Defence With 10...Qd6 11.f4 White has a close to winning initiative in Krauss,H -Bender,K 2017. Although it doesn't look clear at first, his threats of Qh5, Qg4, or f4-f5 are very difficult to meet. Nimzowitsch Defence-N,N

⁸⁰ **5...Nf6** 6.e5 [6.Bc4 Bd6 (6...d6!? is not bad, and

keeps things very Philidor-esque, but I prefer the bishop to be more active if possible.) 7.Nc3 0-0

A) Or 8.0-0 Qe7 9.Bf4 (9.Bg5?! Qe5! 10.Qg3 Qc5 11.Qh4! Be5! is level) 9...Bxf4 10.Qxf4 d6 11.Rad1 Re8 , intending ...Be6 or ...Qe5. The exchanges have eased Black's space problem, and White's edge is tiny.;

B) 8.Bg5 c6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Qxf6 gxf6 11.0-0-0 Bc5 12.f3 b5 13.Bd3 d6 . Black's powerful dark-squared bishop is (nearly) enough to balance his ugly pawn structure. B12 Bc4-N,N The Dark Knight System [James Schuyler]]

[6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Bd3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 0-0 9.0-0 d6 10.Re1 (10.Bg5 h6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Qxf6 gxf6 is an equal endgame.) 10...-- After 10 Re1, White is a little better in spite of his bad pawns. B11 Nc3 [James Schuyler] (It is time for Black to reposition the knight with 10...Nd7 , which steps out of the potential pin, prepares ...Qf6, and eventually ...Nc5 or ...Ne5, where it should have good prospects. Black further intends ...b7-b6, ...Bb7, and ...Re8, targeting White's e-pawn, and may eventually try for ...f7-f5.)]

[6.Bg5 d6 7.Nc3 (As usual 7.Bxf6?! Qxf6 8.Qxf6 gxf6 is equal.) 7...Be7 . In principle, we can already notice that, compared to a regular Philidor, White's Bg5 and Qf3 are awkwardly placed, so White cannot expect much from the opening;

A) e.g. 8.h3 0-0 9.0-0-0 c6 10.Qg3 (10.e5 Ne8 doesn't do anything; , while after 10.Be2 Qa5 11.Bd2 Qc7 12.Qg3 b5 13.Bh6

Ne8 Black is certainly no worse) 10...Qa5 11.f4 Be6 leads to a wild race with approximately even chances.;

B) 8.-- B16 Bg5-N,N [James Schuyler]]

[6.Bd3 d6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Bf4 (9.Nd5 Nxd5 10.exd5 Bf6 11.c3 Re8 gives White very little.) 9...Bg4 10.Qg3 Be6 . The threat to trade off White's good bishop with 11...Nh5 is annoying. Assuming White defends against that, Black should consider the candidate moves ...c7-c6, ...Re8, ...Nd7 (or ...Ng4), ...Ne5, ...Nxd3, ...Bh4, ...Bf6, and ...Qc7 (or ...Qe7). White is only slightly better. B14 Bd3-N,N [James Schuyler]]

[6.Be2 d5 7.e5 Ne4 8.Nc3 Nxc3 9.Qxc3 c6 10.Be3 Be7 11.f4 0-0 . And with 12...f6! coming, Black has equalized. B15 Be2 [James Schuyler]]

6...Qe7 7.Bf4

[7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4 Qb4+ 9.Nd2 The endgame is equal, although Aroshidze - Svetushkin, Kusadasi 2006, is a nice example in which Black managed to grind out a win. Nf4!? 10.Qe4 Ne6 James Schuyler: 'is equal.']

7...c6 8.Nd2

[James Schuyler: 'Other moves lead to equality:

' 8.Qe2 Nd5 9.Bg3 White is simply chopping wood but he has to be careful in the endgame, as Black has the more mobile pawn majority and the b3-bishop might find itself shut out of play. f5! 10.c4 Nc7 11.Nc3 Ne6 12.f4 d6 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 13.0-0-0 Qc7N 14.Qc2 g6 15.Kb1 dxe5!≠ White's pieces are rather

passive. 16.fxe5 Bg7!
favours Black. (White's best seems to be James Schuyler: 'or' 16...Be7; James Schuyler: ', or' 16...f4 James Schuyler: '!? '!? ' James Schuyler: '.)]

[8.Nc3 d6 with balanced play. In N. Mamedov - Kudrin, Moscow 2005, Black could have fought for the advantage with: James Schuyler: '!' '!' White has also tried chipping away at Black's queenside immediately: 9.0-0-0 dxe5 (This is the simplest reply, although 10.Re1 Nd7 11.Bc4 f6 James Schuyler: 'and Black keeps his extra pawn, although White has the appropriate compensation. Black intends ...Nb6 (or ...Nc5), ...Bd7 and ...0-0-0.']

8...d5 9.0-0-0 Nd7 10.Qg3 Nc5 James Schuyler: '. On the surface, this looks bad for Black, who is still four or more moves away from completing his development – but he controls the e6-square, and White lacks the means to orchestrate a breakthrough, so White's advantage is small;' 11.-- N,N-15.Qxd8

[James Schuyler: 'e.g.' 11.Kb1 Bf5 (11...h5 James Schuyler: '!? '!?') 12.Nb3 Nxb3 13.Qxb3 0-0-0 14.Bd3 Be6 James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: 'with no real problems.']

5...d6 6.Nc3 Developing the Knight on the most natural square. 6...Nf6 7.h3 Taking away ...Bg4 ideas by Black, and preparing to push g4 at some point, after Black is castling short. 7...Be7 8.Bf4 Preparing O-O-O. 8...0-0 9.0-0-0 We are going to push g4 on the next move with pressure against the enemy King. 9. Nimzowitsch-

Nimzowitch Nc6

⁸¹ 7...c6 8.Rg1 Activating the Rook. 8...Ne7 9.Be3 We are going to castle long next, while Black is struggling to finish his development. White went on to win in: So, W CC StartBracket CC 2770 CC End Bracket CC -Vachier Lagrave,M CC StartBracket CC 2778 CC End Bracket CC Lichess.org INT 2020 9. Nimzowitsch-Nimzowitch Nc6

8.Bd2 Once again threatening it. 8...Ne7 Black continues to defend against the Nd5 threat, as allowing that would be detrimental to his position. 9.Rg1 Using the open g-file to annoy Black. We can continue with a3 or O-O-O with a nice endgame advantage as Black lacks space. 15) Owen and His Relatives-Nimzowitsch Defense Nc6

⁸² 3...Nb8 4.f4 Bc5 5.Nf3 d6 6.c4 [♠6.Bd3] 6...Qe7 7.Bd3 f5 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.Qe2 fxe4 10.Nxe4 Bb4+ 11.Kd1 Nxe4 12.Qxe4 Nd7 13.fxe5 Nc5 14.Qe2 Nxd3 15.Qxd3 dxe5 16.Bg5 Qf7 17.a3 [17.Nxe5 Qh5+ 18.Nf3 0-0→] 17...Bf5 [17...Bd6? 18.c5!] [17...Be7? 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Nxe5] 18.Qe3 Bd6 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.Qxe5+ Kd7 21.Bf4 Rac8 22.g4? [22.c5 Rhe8 23.c6+ bxc6 24.dxc6+ Kxc6 25.Rc1+ Kb7 26.Qb5+ Ka8 27.Qc6+=] 22...Bxg4+ 23.Kd2 Rhe8 24.Qd4 Re2+ 25.Kc3 Rce8 26.Rhf1 R8e4 27.Bd2 ♠ Qg6 28.Qxa7? [28.Qc5 Rxh2-+]

28...Rxc4+ 29.Kxc4 Qc2+ 30.Bc3 Re4+ 31.Qd4 Be2+ 0-1 (31) Janowski Jenour-Blackburne Chapman Hastings (England) 1898 British Chess Magazine [Janowski, D.]

⁸³ **4.f3** This move weakens the a7-g1 diagonal. 4...Ng6 We are ready to exploit the f3 move by putting our bishop on c5. 5.Be3 White develop a piece and prevents our idea. 5...Bb4+ An annoying check. We want to take the knight on c3 and give White doubled pawns. Next, we will continue with d6 and exploit this long-term weakness. 6.c3 An annoying check. 6...Be7 ...Ba5-Bb6 is typical and also possible. But in this position, I prefer to put the bishop on e7. We are ready to exchange the bishops on g5. By including the check on b4, we prevented Nc3. For instance, the game could continue: 7.Qd2 Preventing our ...Bg5-idea. 7...h6 Insisting on our ...Bg5-idea. 8.Nh3 Preventing our ...Bg5-idea! 8...f5 9.exf5 Nh4 We want to take back the pawn with our knight next. 10.Bd3 White protects the pawn. 10...d6 We attack the pawn again. 11.Qc2 White defends the pawn. 11...Bf6 We free the e7-square for our knight. We will castle and get our pawn back next. 4) 2.d4 3.d5: various 4th mov-White plays 4.f3 #1 **4.g3** Ng6 5.Bg2 5.h4 h5 and we continue with our typical ideas. 5...Bc5 As always, we develop our bishop on c5. 6.Ne2 The most common move. 6...d6 7.0-0 h5 We want to continue with ...h4 next. 8.h4 White logically prevents our ...h4-h5

idea. Here, I will recommend two continuations. 8...Nxb4 Option 1: We sacrifice our knight and build an attack. 9.gxh4 Qxh4 Our idea is to play ...Nf6-Ng4 and ...Qxh2#. Also, the e4-pawn may come under attack at some point. 10.Nd2 The most logical, White wants to play Nd2-Nf3 and harass our queen. 10...Nf6 We continue with our plan 11.Nf3 Qxe4 We have three pawns for our piece. The position is equal according to the engine, but we have the initiative. 4) 2.d4 3.d5: various 4th mov-White plays 4.g3 #1

4.Bg5 Some people have tried this move. However, we would be happy to get this bishop for our knight and take control over the a7-g1 diagonal. 4...h6 We ask the bishop a question. 5.Be3 In my opinion, this is the only move. There is no reason to give the bishop for the knight as the a7-g1 diagonal is weak. 5...Ng6 Next, we can continue with Bb4+ followed by our ...Be7-Bg5 idea. 6.a3 The most common move. White prevents our plan. 6...Nf6 7.Nc3 Be7 We develop our bishop on e7. We are ready to continue with ...d6 and ...O-O. White should avoid allowing us to play ...Ng4! 8.f3 d6 9.Qd2 10.0-0-0 c5 We close the structure. Taking en passant would give Black a winning advantage. Next, we want to launch an attack on White's king. The a3-pawn is a lever. Our next moves are ...a6, ...b5, ...Rb8, ...b5-b4. 4) 2.d4 3.d5: various 4th mov-White plays 4.Bg5 #1

4.h4 This move makes it harder for

Black to develop his pieces, as we can often meet g6 or Ng6 by h5. If Black plays h5 himself, the square on g5 will become rather weak.

4...Nf6 5.f3 I like playing this move right away as we are going to do so anyway at some point. I want to avoid placing the knight on c3 for now, so we can further reinforce our center with c4 first. 5...h5 Black should do this if he wants to complete his development. Black should do this if he wants to complete his development. 5...g6?! Is a weak move, because of 6. Bg5 Bg7 7.d6! Making use of the fact that Black hasn't played d6. 7...cxd6 8.Qxd6 Qb6 And now the endgame is very good for us after 9.Qxb6 axb6 10.Bb5 O-O 11.c4+- We have full control. The engine gives a decisive advantage already, and I agree as Black has absolutely no counterplay. 6.Be3 d6 Not as common as the text move, but highly logical of course. 7.c4 g6 8.Nc3 Neg8 Black's best bet is to place the bishop on f8 on the active h6-square. 8...Bg7? is far too passive, when we will continue with business as usual with 9.Qd2 . 9.Bg5 I think it's best to face Black's plan by placing the bishop here, where Black has to play Bh6 and take in order to get rid of it. 9...Bh6 10.g3 First of all, we can play Bh3 and trade off the 'weak' light-squared bishop, but more importantly we can play f4 in order to defend the pawn on g5 when Black takes on g5. 10...Bxg5 Black has to play concretely. 11.hxg5 Nh7 12.f4 f6 Black has to fight back asap,

otherwise his position will fall apart.

13.Be2 A good move, threatening to take on h5. 13...exf4 [13...fxg5 Taking immediately is possible too. 14.fxe5 Necessary, as 14.Bxh5 is met by 14...Nf8! dxe5 15.Nf3 Ngf6 Our center becomes too powerful after 15...Qe7 16.c5! Qxc5 17.Nxe5 . 16.Qa4+ A strong move when our queen can move to the a3-f8 diagonal, preventing Black from castling. Bd7 17.Qa3 Preventing Black from castling. Ng4 Black has to defend the pawn on e5 and this is the only way to do so. 18.O-O-0 Black's position is on the verge of collapse. Kf7 A pretty clever resource, the king seeks shelter on g7. 18...Qe7 can be met by 19.d6! when White is breaking through. 19.c5 The only way to get an edge is to advance the pawn to this square, when it will reach c6-next. Also, Nb5 is also in the air along with Qb3. Kg7 20.c6 Bc8 21.cxb7 Bxb7 22.Na4 The knight will be very strong on the c5-square. Nf2 Leads to a very interesting position. 23.Nc5 Bc8 24.Nxe5 We sacrifice the exchange for a very powerful initiative. Nxd1 25.Rxd1 Qf6 Black has to place the queen in this diagonal. 26.Ncd7 Qd6 27.Qc3 It looks like our initiative is too powerful for Black. Bxd7 28.Nxd7+ Nf6 29.Bb5 Rf1 will come when we will win back the exchange with an objectively winning position. 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1..-2...e5 (4...h5 2)]

14.gxf4 fxg5 Leads to a piece sacrifice for Black, but it's good for us.

15.Qd4 Qf6 16.Qxf6 Ngxf6 17.e5 We are down a pawn for the time

being, but our center is incredibly strong. 17...dxe5

[17...Ng4 A more humane move if you ask me. 18.e6 0-0 18...gxf4? Fails to 19.Nb5! The c7-move is a target which is difficult to defend. 19...Kd8 20.Bxg4 Now Black has massive problems in the h-file. 20...hxxg4 21.Ne2 g5 22.Kf2+- Black is completely destroyed. A beautiful position. 19.Bd3 A strong move, targeting g6. Rf6 And now 19...Kg7 The most logical way to defend the g6-pawn. 20.Nh3 Targeting g5 while developing the knight. 20...gxf4 21.Nb5! Once again we can target the soldier on c7. 21...c6 22.Nxd6 Ne5 23.Bc2+- Black's position is in dire straits. Our advantage just keeps climbing on my engine. 20.f5 Breaking through Black's little army of pawns. Ne5 21.Bc2 We obviously can't allow Black to grab our precious bishop. h4 Making sure that the pawn on h5 no longer hangs. 21...Nxc4 22.fxxg6 Nf8 23.Rxxh5+- White's pawns are incredibly strong, so I think Black will have to sac a piece sooner or later. Then our extra material should decide. 22.Nb5 Once again targeting the pawn on c7. c6 There are many ways to win from here. 23.fxxg6 Is one of them, when a logical continuation is Nf8 24.Nc7 Rb8 25.Ne8 A pretty sweet move to make. Note that 25.e7? ruins everything after 25...Bd7! when Black gets great compensation. Rf4 26.Nxd6 Black's position is falling apart like a house of cards. 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1..-2...e5 (4...h5 3)]

18.fxe5 Bf5 The best fighting move is not to care about the piece. 18...

Nd7 Trying to keep the extra material will end in a disaster for Black. 19.e6 Nc5 20.Nb5+- Black's position is hopeless. 19.exf6

g4 Black should restrict our g1-knight before he gobbles the pawn on f6. 20.Rd1 In order to get our pieces out, we will place a bishop on d3 and knight on e2. 20...0-0 Black should try to play actively. 20...Kf7? Allows us to carry out our plan, when Black won't have enough for the piece. 21.Bd3 Kxf6 22.Nge2+- White's extra piece is much stronger than the pawns. 21.Bd3 Rxf6 22.Nge2 Black has compensation, but I still doubt he will save the game. 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1..-2...e5 (4...h5 4)

4.Bd3 Ng6 5.Ne2 White wants to develop his knight to g3 next. This plan doesn't look like the right one. Indeed, White's knight could be vulnerable if Black decides to push the h-pawn. 5...Nf6 6.h4

[6.0-0 White should have waited. Black can continue his development and think about pushing his h-pawn next. Bc5 7.Ng3 White continues with his plan. d6 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bb5+ Kf8 Black put his king on f8 where it is safe because the position is closed. Next, he will take advantage of the poorly placed knight on g3 by pushing the h-pawn. From h8, the rook will be active! 10.Be3 Bb6 10...Bxe3 11.fxe3 11...h5 Was a better alternative. 11.a4 h5 12.Nd2 h4 13.Ne2 13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.exf5 Ne7 White will lose material. Bxe3 14.fxe3 Ng4 15.Ra3 15.Rf3 h3 Followed by ...Nf6 and ...Ng6-Nh4. h3 16.g3 Ne7 Black wants to target the weakness on

e4. 17.Nf3 Ng8 18.Qd2 N8f6 19.Bd3 c6 20.c4 g6 21.Bb1 c5 22.b4 cxb4 Black wants to use the c5-square for his pieces. 23.Qxb4 a5 24.Qd2 Nd7 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Nb5 Kg7 27.Qe2 Qe7 28.Nd2 Bd7 29.Nb3 Rhc8 30.Nxc5 Rxc5 31.Bd3 Bxb5 32.axb5 Good knight vs Bad bishop. White's position has too many weaknesses. 32.Qxg4 Bxc4 And White is lost anyways. Qg5 33.Rf3 b6 34.Ra1 Rc7 35.Raf1 f6 36.Qd2 Rf8 37.Rd1 f5 38.Rdf1 Rcf7 39.exf5 gxf5 40.Be2 Rc8 41.Rd1 Nf6 42.Bf1 Ne4 43.Qd3 Qg6 44.Qe2 White blunders the exchange in a difficult position. Nc3 45.Qe1 Nxd1 46.Qxd1 Rfc7 47.Bxh3 Rxc4 48.Rf1 Rc1 49.Qxc1 Rxc1 50.Rxc1 The rest is a matter of technique. Qh6 51.Rc7+ Kf6 52.Bf1 Qxe3+ 53.Kg2 Qe4+ 54.Kf2 Qxd5 55.h4 a4 56.h5 a3 57.Bc4 Qd2+ 58.Kf3 a2 59.Rf7+ Kg5 60.Bxa2 Qxa2 White resigns. 5) 2.d4 3.d5: Model Games-Al Harazi,K] 6...h5 7.Be3 b6 8.a4 a5 9.Na3 Bc5 10.Bxc5 bxc5 11.d6 cxd6 12.Nb5 0-0 13.Nxd6 Rb8 14.Bb5 Nf4 15.Nxf4 exf4 16.0-0 Ng4 17.Nxc8?

[17.Qd2! Qxh4 18.Qxf4 and White defends against the mate threat.] 17...Qxh4! 18.Qxd7 Qh2# 0-1 (18)

Roifou-Kingscrusher 1-50

4.d6 Ng6 5.dxc7 Qxc7 6.a3 Bc5 7.Nc3 Qb6 8.Nd5 Bxf2+ 9.Ke2 Bxg1 10.Nxb6 Bxb6 11.Ke1 Nf6 12.Bc4 d5 13.Bxd5 Bg4 14.Qd3 0-0-0 15.c4 Rhe8 16.Bg5 Nf4 17.Bxf4 exf4 18.Rf1 Rxd5 19.cxd5 Nxe4 20.Qc2+ Nc5+ 21.Kf2 Re2+ 22.Qxe2 Nd3#

0-1 (22) Muller,A-Nimzowitsch,A Zurich 1905

♠4.Nc3 -- ♠5.Bd3 -- 6.Nge2

⁸⁴ **4...d6** 5.c4 f5 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bd3 f4 8.0-0!? g5!?

[8...Rg8]

9.Nxg5 Rg8 10.Ne6 Bxe6 11.dxe6 Ng6 12.Nd5 c6 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.Qg4!? Be7 15.Be2 0-0-0 16.g3 Rdf8 17.Kh1 f3 18.Bd3 h5 19.Qf5 Qg7 20.Qh3 h4?!

[20...Nf4 21.Bxf4 ♖ exf4→]

21.g4 Nf4 22.Bxf4 Rxf4 23.Rg1 Bg5 24.Rad1 c5 25.Bc2 Qe7 26.b4 Qxe6 27.bxc5 dxc5 28.Rd5± Be7 29.Ba4 Rd8 30.Rgd1 Bd6 31.Qxh4 Rxe4?? 32.Qxd8+! Kxd8 33.Rxd6+ Qxd6 34.Rxd6+ Ke7 35.Rd1 Rxc4 36.Bb3 Rxc4 37.Bd5 Rb4 38.Bxf3 Rb2 39.Kg2+- c4 40.Rc1

[40.h4 b5 41.h5]

40...b5 41.a4

[♜41.h4]

41...a6 42.axb5 axb5 43.Bc6?

[43.h4]

43...Kd6 44.Bxb5?⊕

[44.Be4 -- ♠45.h4]

44...Rxb5 45.Rxc4 Ke6 ½-½ (45) Lewis, S-Hope,M Natal 1956 The S African Chessplaye [RR]

⁸⁵ **5.Nc3** Nf6 The main tabiya. 6.Bd3 We reach one of our main tabiyas.

[6.Bg5 The main move for players rated below 2200 with +4000 games in the database. And the second most common move for players above 2200. However, this move is inaccurate. We want to put our bishop on c5 and put pressure along the a7-g1 diagonal. If White trades his bishop on f6, then our dark-squared bishop will be the king of the board. Bc5 Our bishop comes to his best diagonal. Usually, we will play either ...a6 or ...a7 at some point, making a room on a7 for

the bishop. In this position, White has tried many moves such as 7.Bd3, 7.Bc4, 7.Qd2, 7.h3, 7.Be2, 7.h4 and 7.a3. We meet all those moves with 7...h6. White will have to give the bishop or retreat. In all cases, Black is better. Our typical ideas will guide you to finish the game. 7.Na4 White wants to get rid of our strong bishop immediately. Bxf2+ Unfortunately for White, this doesn't work. 8.Kxf2 Nxe4+ 9.Kg1 Nxc5 White is lost. 3) 2.d4 3.d5: White plays 4.N-White plays 4.Nf3 #2]

[6.Bc4 Dubious but popular, so let's cover it. Bb4 We pin the knight and attack the e4-pawn. 7.Qe2 White defends the e4-pawn. The popular 7.Bg5 is inaccurate because of 7...h6 with a dream position for Black. Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 d6 9.0-0 0-0 A dream position for Black. White queenside pawns are weak. We can lock the structure with ...b6 and ...a5. White will have difficulties breaking through on the side of the board. We can either continue with ...Nd7-Nc5 or ...Nh5-...Nf4. Black is already much better here. 3) 2.d4 3.d5: White plays 4.N-White plays 4.Nf3 #9]

6...Bc5 We develop our bishop on his best diagonal. 7.Bg5 will transpose to our lines 6.Bg5 followed by 7.Bd3. 7.Na4 White wants to get rid of our strong bishop.

[7.0-0 0-0 Making room for the bishop on a7 first with 7...a6 is also possible. 8.a3 a5 Black prevents b4-idea and makes room for the bishop. 9.h3 d6 10.Qe2 10.Be3 Challenging our strong bishop was maybe more accurate. 10...Nd7 10...b6 We are ready to recapture on c5 with our b-

pawn. Bd7 The bishop on c8 is already active. Black could have started kingside actions immediately. 10...Nh5 Black should have started to fight for the f4-square immediately. 11.Be3 Bxe3 11...b6 is also possible. 12.Qxe3 h6 13.Ne2 Nh5 Black finally finds the right plan. The knight is coming to the f4-square. 14.b3 Qf6 15.Rac1 Ngf4 16.Ng3 Qg6 White's g3-knight can't move because of the threat on g2. 17.Nh2 This maneuver is too slow. f5 18.exf5 White lost control over the d5-pawn. 18.Qf3 Avoiding to capture on f5 doesn't work either. 18...Nxc3 19.Qxc3 Qh5 20.Rce1 Rf6 White is in trouble. Bxf5 19.Bxf5 Rxf5 The rook is untouchable because of the checkmate on g2. 20.Ng4 Nxc3 21.fxc3 Nxd5 22.Qd2 e4 22...Ne7 There was no reason to rush. It was possible to bring all the pieces in the game before starting pushing the central pawns. 23.Rxf5 Qxf5 24.Rf1 Qe6 25.Re1 a4 26.b4 Re8 27.Qd4 b5 28.c4 bxc4 29.Qxc4 h5 30.Ne3 White needs pieces on the board to find active counterplay. The endgame is lost. 30.Nh2 This ugly-looking move would have preserved pieces on the board. 30...Nf6 31.Qxc7 d5 The pawns start rolling. Nxe3 31.Qxe6+ Rxe6 32.Rxe3 d5 The pawns are too strong. 5) 2.d4 3.d5: Model Games-Golubka,P]

7...Bb4+ 8.c3 If White interposes his bishop on d2, we are glad to trade bishops. 8...Be7 We accept to retreat our bishop on e7. 9.0-0 0-0 10.c4 d6 Next, we would like to get rid of our bad bishop. We can achieve this by playing ...h6, ...Nh7 and

either ...Ng5 or ...Bg5. The ...f5-breakthrough is also on the agenda.

3) 2.d4 3.d5: White plays 4.N-White plays 4.Nf3 #4

5.c3 Bc5 6.a3 d6 7.b4 Bb6
8.Bd3 Nf6 9.h3 0-0 10.0-0 Nh5
11.Kh2 Nh4 12.Bxf4 Nxf4 13.a4 a6
14.a5 Ba7 15.Na3 Qf6 16.Nc4 Qg6

[Δ16...Qh6]

17.Ne1 Qh6 18.Qf3 g5 19.Ne3 Kh8
20.Ng4 Qg6 21.Ne3 h5 22.Nf5 f6
23.g3

[Δ23.Ne7]

23...g4 24.hxg4 hxg4 25.Qh1 Nh3
26.Kg2 Rf7 27.Nh4 Qg5 28.Rd1 Rh7
29.Qh2 Bd7 30.c4 Rg8 31.b5 Rxh4
32.gxh4 Qxh4 33.b6 cxb6 34.Qg3
Nf4+ 35.Kg1 Qh6 36.axb6 Bxb6
37.Rb1 Rg5! 38.Rxb6 Rh5 39.f3 Rh1+
40.Kf2 Nxd3+ 41.Ke2

[41.Nxd3 Qd2#]

41...Nc1+ 0-1 (41) Trull,E-Payne,R corr
1951 Corr 2000 [Payne, F.]

Δ5.c4 Bc5

[5...Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 Although Black's bishop is very strong on the a7-g1 diagonal, the doubled c-pawns are also a big problem for White, and one that cannot possibly be fixed. Not only are they targets in the late middlegame and endgame, they immobilize White's queenside, making it difficult for him to generate meaningful play on that side of the board. Furthermore, White is forced to play an awkward move like 7 Bd3 or 7 Qc2 to defend his e-pawn. Because it is possible to inflict the positional damage and still attack, I prefer to double the pawns if possible, though this is largely a matter of taste.

(This is a difficult decision, especially since we will need to know the

positions after **6...Bc5** anyway because of the different move orders White can use (see line A21 for this).) 7.Bd3 (**7.Bd2?!** keeps the pawns from being doubled, but it is bad nonetheless: *Bxc3 8.Bxc3 Nxe4 9.Bxe5 Nxe5 10.Nxe5 Qf6 11.Nd3 0-0 12.Be2 d6 13.0-0 Bf5* and Black has a significant advantage in activity.) 7...Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 d6 9.0-0 0-0 10.h3?! This is not good, but it is always played, if it hasn't been played already. Even Houdini likes it! Black's attacking ideas should be familiar by now: Nh5 . Black intends ...Nh4 and ...Nh4, or ...Ngf4 and ...Qf6. On the queenside, it will probably be necessary to play ...b7-b6 soon, while a2-a4 should be met by ...a7-a5 to eliminate counterplay. In theory White should be okay, but in reality Black has won every game. W.M.Buehl-J.Benjamin, Reno 1999 (see Game 42) is typical. A23 Nf3-N,N The Dark Knight System [James Schuyler]]

6.Be2 d6 7.0-0 a5 Black prevents the b4-idea before developing his knight. 7...Nf6 8.b4 It is not possible to take the pawn because Black loses the bishop. Black can retreat the bishop on b6 and is completely fine. But there is no reason to help White take space on the queenside. 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.Ne1 White is not happy with his pieces and tries to reorganize them. Black is already slightly better and will have no problems executing our typical ideas on the kingside. 9...0-0

10.Nc2

[10.Nd3 Bd4! was W.Weisser-L. Trumpp, German League 2003, in

which White quickly reached a difficult position and got abused tactically (see Game 34).]

10...Bd7 11.g3 This pawn move creates weaknesses around the king.

11...h6 Black wants to improve his f6-knight via the h7-square. Moving the knight will also allow the ...f5-breakthrough. 12.Be3 b6 Typical.

13.Bxc5 bxc5 14.a4 Now, White will have difficulties breaking through on the queenside. Black is ready to launch in kingside attack. 14...Nh7

15.Ne3 Ne7 The knight is ready to support the ...f5-breakthrough.

16.Bg4 16.f4 exf4 17.gxf4 Black is still better, but this was a better try to fight than the move played in the game. 16...f5 17.Bxf5 Bxf5

18.exf5 Nxf5 19.Nxf5 Rxf5 White managed to exchange a few pieces, but the weaknesses around the White's king are still there.

20.Qg4 Qd7 21.h4 Raf8 22.Ne4 Rb8 23.Rab1 Qf7 24.b3 Rf3 25.Nd2 Rd3 26.Rb2 Rf8 26...Rd4 27.Qh3 Qg6

White can't find a good move.

27.Qe2 Rd4 28.Ne4 Qg6 29.Re1 Can you spot how to win material? 29.f3 Could have been tried but after: 29...Nf6 30.Nxf6+ Rxf6 31.Kh2 Rd3 32.Kg2 h5 White's position is full of weaknesses.

29...Rf4 Black takes advantage of the pin. White loses material. 30.Nxc5 The only try. 30...dxc5 31.Qxe5 Rfe4 32.Rxe4 Rxe4 33.Qxc7

The final mistake. 33...Re1+ 34.Kg2 Qd3 The queen is ready to invade the weak light squares.

35.Qc8+ Nf8 36.Qxc5 Qf1+ 37.Kf3 Qh1+ 38.Kg4 Qe4+ 38...h5+ 39.Kxh5 Qf3+ 40.g4 Re5 39.f4 Re3

40.Qc8 Qg6+ White resigns. 5) 2.d4 3.d5: Model Games-Alvarez Ibarra,R

5.Be3 James Schuyler: 'White doesn't actually play this very often, but Black's attacking ideas in this variation are too important and widely applicable to relegate to a footnote. Study carefully. Don't worry, it's fun and easy.' 5...Nf6

6.Bd3

[James Schuyler: 'Not' 6.Nbd2 was also decent in Nyzhnyk - Mirzoev, Denizli 2013. c6 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 7.c4 James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' James Schuyler: '(this is no good, but the alternative is to give up the centre)' Ng4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 8.Bg5 This solid move is enough for equality. (Those who enjoy complications may wish to check James Schuyler: '?' '?' Qb6 9.Qe2 James Schuyler: '?' '?' Bc5 James Schuyler: 'and White needs CPR.']

6...Ng4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 7.Bd2 [7.Bg5 Be7 Black is absolutely fine. 8.Bd2 Bc5]

7...Bc5 James Schuyler: ', transposing.' 8.0-0 a5 9.h3 Nf6 James Schuyler: '.

White has gotten h2-h3 for free, but free is still way too expensive – he must be extremely careful because of his weakened kingside:' 10.-- N,N-17.a5

[10.Qe1 d6 11.Bxa5 James Schuyler: '?' '?' Bxh3 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 12.gxh3 Qd7 13.Kh2 Nf4 14.Ng1 Ng4+ James Schuyler: '!' '!' 15.Kh1 (James Schuyler: 'not' 15.hxg4 James Schuyler: '???' '???' Qxg4 James Schuyler: 'and ...Qg2 mate') 15...Nxf2+ 16.Rxf2 Bxf2 Several strong players have chosen

this option with White. 17.Qxf2 Rxa5 18.Qf3 0-0 This is White's most recent attempt to fight for an advantage. 19.Nc3 f5 20.exf5 Nxd3 21.Qxd3 Rxf5 James Schuyler: 'and Black is better because of White's weak king and awkward knights.']

[10.a4 0-0 11.Na3 d6 12.Qe1 (James Schuyler: 'or' 12.Nc4 c6 White is slightly better, as he has the tricky idea of Ng5-e4. James Schuyler: '!' '!' 13.dxc6 does not impress me at all. d5!?N This ambitious approach is fully justified. (The solid James Schuyler: '!' '!' 14.exd5 James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' e4 James Schuyler: '!' '!') 12...Nh5 13.Be3 Ngf4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 14.Bxc5= Black equalized comfortably in Vachier-Lagrave - Balogh, Legnica 2013. Black can also consider 14...Qf6!?N James Schuyler: '!!' '!!' 15.Be3 Bxh3 16.Bxf4 Nxf4!? with a complex game. 17.Nh2 allows Bxg2 I also checked 18.Qe3 but found that after Bxf1 James Schuyler: 'and even though White survives, Black maintains some material and positional pluses. Note that in many similar positions White voluntarily spends a tempo on h2-h3(?) – a move which contributes greatly to his downfall. Note, too, that Black's attack with ...Nh5, ...Ngf4, ...Qf6 is so strong that he can sacrifice a full piece to accelerate it. One free tempo and the game would have been over. and even though White survives, Black maintains some material and positional pluses. Note that in many similar positions White voluntarily spends a tempo on h2-h3(?) – a move which contributes greatly to his

downfall. Note, too, that Black's attack with ...Nh5, ...Ngf4, ...Qf6 is so strong that he can sacrifice a full piece to accelerate it. One free tempo and the game would have been over. ']

⁸⁶ **6.Bg5** The main and best continuation. 6...Nf6 7.Nc3 James Schuyler: 'transposes to the main line'

[7.Nbd2 Often, White plays this move with the intention of Nb3 to harass our bishop. Bc5 We develop our bishop on his best diagonal anyway. 8.Nb3 If White plays 8.Bd3 we continue with 8...d6 and our typical ideas. If White plays 8.c3 we continue with 8...a5 and our typical ideas. Bb6 We keep the bishop on the diagonal. Because the knight doesn't defend the e4-pawn anymore, 8...Be7 is also a move. However, I prefer to keep our bishop active as much as possible. 9.c4 d6 We have a good position. We will continue with our typical ideas. In this position, the most common move is a mistake. Let's see! 10.a4 White push the pawn and wants to trap our bishop. Nxe4 We counterattack the f2-pawn and take the e4-pawn on the way. And yes, we sac our queen!! 11.Bxd8 11.c5 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxc5 13.Nxc5 dxc5 and Black is up two pawns. Bxf2+ 12.Ke2 Nf4# Oops! 3) 2.d4 3. d5: White plays 4.N-White plays 4.Nf3 #17]

7...Bb4 This position is the main tabiya. We will analyze in-depth five possible continuations. This position is one of our main tabiyas.

[7...Bc5 James Schuyler: 'is a

possible alternative.'

A) James Schuyler: '. Then' 8.Na4
James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' Bb4+ 9.c3
Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.d6
James Schuyler: 'was A.Ivanov-J.
Benjamin, US Championship,
Parsippany 1996, which Ivanov won,
but Black's inaccuracies are yet to
come. Indeed, after' cxd6 12.g3
James Schuyler: '!?' '!?'

A1) 12...d5 James Schuyler: '?!'
'?!' 13.Qxd5 d6
James Schuyler: '?' '?' 14.Bb5+
Kf8 James Schuyler: 'White was
much better';

A2) James Schuyler: ', but
Benjamin could have played'
12...b6 13.c4 (13.Qxd6
James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' Bb7
14.Qd3 Bc6 15.b3 d5
James Schuyler: 'is great for
Black') 13...Bb7 14.Nc3 Be7
James Schuyler: ', followed by ...
Nf8-e6 – Black's extra pawn may
not be much of an asset, but he
is not suffering for having it. ,
followed by ...Nf8-e6 - Black's
extra pawn may not be much of
an asset, but he is not suffering
for having it.';

A3) 12...-- ½-½ Grigorian,K-Tal,
M/Baku 1972/URS-ch;

B) James Schuyler: 'However, the
correct response to 7...Bc5, namely'
8.Nd2 James Schuyler: '! '!' James
Schuyler: ', puts Black under some
pressure.';

C) 8.--]

8.Be2 James Schuyler: 'allows us to
preserve the bishop with'

[8.Nd2 James Schuyler: '! '!']

A) James Schuyler: 'In E.
Mortensen-C.Hoi, Ostrava 1992,

Black played' 8...c6 9.Be2 (9.g3
James Schuyler: '!?' '!?') 9...Bxc3
10.bxc3 cxd5 11.Bxh5 (11.exd5
James Schuyler: '!?' '!?') 11...Nf4
12.Bf3 Ne6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.exd5
Nc5 15.g3 (15.h5
James Schuyler: '!?' '!?') 15...d6
James Schuyler: 'with only a tiny
disadvantage, but White missed
some good chances along the way.

;

B) 8...d6 James Schuyler: '! '!']

B1) 9.Bb5+ James Schuyler: 'is
certainly not a big deal after' Bd7
10.Bxd7+ Qxd7 James Schuyler:
' . Sure, we liked that bishop, but
White has solved our space
problem and helped us break the
annoying pin on our f6-knight.
Then' 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Qf3 Qg4
(12...Bxc3 13.Qxc3 f5 14.g3
0-0-0 James Schuyler: 'is okay,
too') 13.Qxg4 (James Schuyler:
'or' 13.Qxf6 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Nf4
James Schuyler: '! '!' 15.Nf3
Qxg2 16.Ng5 Rf8 17.0-0-0
Qxf2 18.Nh7 Ne2+ 19.Kd2
Qxf6 20.Nxf6+ Ke7 21.Nxh5
Rh8 22.Kxe2 Rxh5 23.Rdg1
James Schuyler: 'with a draw,
presumably, though only Black
can pretend to play for a win')
13...hxg4 14.g3 Bxc3 15.bxc3
Ne7 16.c4 f5 James Schuyler:
'is level.';

B2) 9.Be2 Nf4 James Schuyler:
'! '!' James Schuyler: '(as in many
similar positions, White does not
want to take this knight,
especially since his bishop is
strong on the g5-square)'
10.Bb5+ Kf8 (James Schuyler:
' t h i s t i m e ' 10...Bd7

James Schuyler: 'doesn't work well – White will gain the very useful g2-g3 with tempo doesn't work well - White will gain the very useful g2-g3 with tempo')

11.0-0 Bg4±

B2a) _____ James Schuyler: 'or'

12.Qe1 Bd7 James Schuyler:

'!' '!' James Schuyler: '- the

situation has changed again

already; the bishop exchange

now brings equality: - the

situation has changed again

already; the bishop exchange

now brings equality:' 13.Bxd7

(James Schuyler: 'or similarly'

13.Bd3 James Schuyler: '?!'

'?!' c6) 13...Qxd7

James Schuyler: 'and Black

will follow with 14...Qg4 if

possible, otherwise 14...c6';

B2b) 12.f3 _____ c6

James Schuyler: '!' '!' 13.Ba4

Bxc3 14.bxc3 Bd7 15.dxc6

Bxc6 16.Bxc6 Qb6+ 17.Kh1

Qxc6 18.Bxf4 exf4 19.Nb3

d5 20.e5 Nd7 21.Re1 Re8

22.Qd4 Rh6 James Schuyler:

'is roughly equal.

There are many other ways

the game could go, and White

does have chances for an

advantage, but the preceding

lines give a good indication of

Black's resources. is roughly

equal. --- There are many

other ways the game could go,

and White does have chances

for an advantage, but the

preceding lines give a good

indication of Black's resources.

;

B3) 9.-- _____ N,N [Bellin] James

Schuyler: 'After the text, we're in uncharted territory again, which is just how we like it. Right?! Right.']

[James Schuyler: 'Instead:

' 8.a3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Black doubles

White's queenside pawns. As we

know from the previous chapter, we

want to continue with ...c6 and ...Qa5.

c6 10.c4 d6 11.Nd2 Qa5

The e4-pawn is under attack. James

Schuyler: 'was L.Christiansen-J.

Benjamin, US Championship 2000

(see Game 33). Black had nothing to

complain about and went on to win.'

12.Bd3 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Qf3 Ke7

Black's king is safe and defends the f6-

pawn. Ng4 Black wants to continue

with ...f6. 13.Qe2 f6 14.Be3 Nf4

A good move. Instead of taking the

bishop immediately, Black attacks the

queen and the g2-pawn. If White

takes on f4, the e5-square becomes

available for our g4-knight. 15.Bxf4

15.Qf1 White can try not to capture

on f4, but this doesn't work well. 15...

Qc3 White has difficulties to find a

move. 16.Ra2 Bd7 17.g3 The only

move if White doesn't want to take on

f4. 17...Nxe3 18.fxe3 Nxd3+ 19.

Qxd3 Qa5 White's position is difficult.

20.Rb2 20.O-O O-O 21.Qe2 Bg4

22.Qd3 White can continue with ...

Rf7, ...Raf8 and ...f5. White's knight is

useless. exf4 Black's knight will jump

on the e5-square. 16.0-0 c5 17.Nf3

Ne5 The d3-bishop looks like a pawn.

18.Rfb1 Qc3 19.Nxe5 Qxe5 20.a4

g5 White mobilizes his pawn majority

immediately. 21.hxg5 ...gxh4 followed

by h4-h3 was the threat. fxg5 22.Ra3

g4 The pawns are monster. 23.Qd2

White uses the misplaced rook on h8

to try saving himself in the endgame. Rh7 Black moves the rook from h8, but this doesn't prevent White's plan. The rook will go to e7 to prevent the e4-e5 push. 24.Qc3 Qxc3 25.Rxc3 Re7 26.g3 f3 White's king will have difficulties to be activated. 27.a5 Kf7 Black activates the king. ...Kf6/...Kg5 followed by ...h5-h4 is a strong plan. 28.Kf1 Rb8 29.Ke1 A blunder. White tries to activate his king but falls for a simple tactic. Bf5 The e4-pawn is doomed. 30.Kd2 Bxe4 31.Bxe4 Rxe4 32.Re3 Rxe3 33.Kxe3 Kf6 34.Kf4 Kg6 35.a6 35.Re1 Trying to activate the rook via the e-file doesn't work because of: 35...Rf8+ 36.Ke3 Re8+ 37.Kd2 Rxe1 38.Kxe1 Kg5 And Black is too fast. b6 36.c3 Rf8+ 37.Ke3 Kg5 Black will continue with ... Re8+-...Re2 and ...h5-h4. 5) 2.d4 3. d5: Model Games-Christiansen,L]

8...d6 9.Nd2 White threatens the h5-pawn. 9.O-O Bxc3 10.bxc3 Qd7 Next, we have ideas like ... Qg4 and ...Nh7. If White takes on f6, we will use the g-file to launch an attack.

[9.0-0 Bd7 10.a3 Bc5 11.Qd3 a6 12.g3 0-1 Lehmann,H-Smyslov,V/ Havana 1965/MCD Bh3 13.Rfd1 James Schuyler: 'and break the annoying pin by 'Qc8 (James Schuyler: 'or' 13...Qb8 James Schuyler: '!?' '!?' James Schuyler: '), when we're just about equal. (This queen manoeuvre should be kept in mind throughout this section.) 14...Ng4 is likely, targeting the f2-square.

The text move is more challenging.), when we're just about equal. (This queen manoeuvre should be kept in

mind throughout this section.) 14... Ng4 is likely, targeting the f2-square. -- - The text move is more challenging.')]

9...c6 We give the pawn. 10.Bxh5 Bxc3 11.bxc3 cxd5 12.exd5 Qa5 13.Bxg6 fxg6 Everything was more or less forced.

14.c4 Logical, White protects the pawn by pushing it. The game Vertes, Alain (2209) - Roques, Pascal (2287) , 1/2 - 1/2, 2012 continued with 14.Bxf6 14...Ne4 We attack the g5-bishop. 15.0-0 The only move. Against everything else, we have a slight advantage by targeting the weak c-pawns with ... B f 5 and ... R a c 8 . 15...Nxg5 We open the h-file for our rook.

16.hxg5 Bf5 We target the c2-pawn. Next, we can continue with ...O-O-O. We have ideas like ...Rh4 and ... Rdh8. The queen is useful to prevent the a4-a5-a6 idea. Later, it is possible to transfer it to the kingside via c3 or with ...Qd8-Qxg5. 3) 2.d4 3.d5: White plays 4.N-White plays 4.Nf3 #16

James Schuyler: 'Alternatively:

' 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Ng5

James Schuyler: '!?' '!?'

[7.Bg5]

7...--

[7...Bb4 James Schuyler: '! '!' 8.Be2 d6 9.Qd3 Bd7 10.a3

James Schuyler: ', and instead of' Bxc3+ James Schuyler: 'as in M.

Kravtsiv-K.Tarlev, Evpatoria 2007 (see Game 31),' (James Schuyler: 'I prefer' 10...Bc5

James Schuyler: ', retaining the bishop for now; e.g.' 11.g3 0-0 12.0-0 Ng4

James Schuyler: 'with a tiny edge to White. Black intends ... Qe7 and ...f7-f6 to evict the knight, and probably ...a7-a6 and ...b7-b5.')]

[James Schuyler: 'Riskier is' 7...Bc5
 James Schuyler: '!?' '!?' 8.d6
 James Schuyler: '! '!' cxd6 9.Bc4 0-0
 10.0-0 b5 James Schuyler: '! '!' 11.Nxb5 Ba6 12.a4 Rc8 13.Be2 d5
 1-0 Furman,S-Levenfish,G/Moscow 1949/URS-ch 14.exd5 Nxh4 15.Bxh5 e4
 James Schuyler: '— Black has solved the problem of his weak pawns by sacrificing them all and now has reasonable play for the pawn minus, but White had many other tries. - Black has solved the problem of his weak pawns by sacrificing them all and now has reasonable play for the pawn minus, but White had many other tries.']

6.g3 Bc5 7.Bg5 f6

James Schuyler: '!?' '!?'

[7...Nf6 8.Bh3 d6 9.Bxc8 Qxc8 10.Bxf6 gxf6 James Schuyler: 'is simpler – Black will play ...f6-f5 at his convenience, with near equality is simpler - Black will play ...f6-f5 at his convenience, with near equality']

8.Bd2 d6 9.Nc3 Bd7 10.Be2 N6e7
 James Schuyler: 'was a little better for White in H.Meissner-A.Miles, European Cup, Slough 1997, though Miles methodically ground out the win in an instructive ending (see Game 32).'

6.Be2 Nf6 7.Nc3 a6 8.Bg5 Bc5 9.0-0 d6 James Schuyler: 'is already equal since Black has quickly established his bishop in the ideal position. Black will normally follow with 10...Qd7, breaking the pin and intending ...Ng4 or ...Qg4.'

⁸⁷ **8.Bg5** a5 It is also possible to start with ...d6. However, this move prevents the b4-idea followed by

Qa4+. 9.Bd3 d6 Next we have different ideas: -...Nf4 -...Bb4 followed by ...Nf8-Nd7-Nc5 - ... Qb8-a7 followed by ...Ng4 - ...Bg4 - ...Qd7 followed by ...Nh7 to harass the g5-bishop For instance, the game could continue: 10.a3 Bg4 11.Be2 Qd7 We want to harass White's bishop with ...Nh7. 12.Bxf6 White takes the opportunity to double our pawns. 12...gxf6 In exchange for the doubled pawns, we get the f4-square and the g-file.

13.g3 White covers the f4-square immediately. 13...f5 We want to continue with f5-f4 next. 14.exf5 Qxf5 White has to defend the f2-pawn. Black has no problems. 3) 2.d4 3. d5: White plays 4.N-White plays 4. Nf3 #21

⁸⁸ **5.a3** Nf6 6.Nc3 Bc5 7.Bd3

[James Schuyler: 'Other moves:

' 7.Nf3 James Schuyler: '?' '?' Ng4 Uhlmann - Bruemmer, Magdeburg 1964. White's seemingly attractive exchange sacrifice is actually not too dangerous, especially after the accurate continuation: James Schuyler: '! '!']

[James Schuyler: 'or' 7.Nge2!N James Schuyler: '?' '?' Ng4 James Schuyler: '! '!' James Schuyler: 'is terrible. Have you noticed that White needs to be careful on the dark squares? Eh?']

[James Schuyler: 'I've seen White play' 7.h3⚡ Black has a clear advantage. James Schuyler: 'here, after which he should have his right to play White permanently revoked – but the fact that he always loses here has as much to do with his obviously

passive attitude as the defects of his position.' After 7...d6 I like 8.Nf3 when the one example on the database continued: a5 9.g3 0-0 10.Bg2 c6 James Schuyler: 'was C. Baluta-A.Cioara, Bucharest 1996 (see Game 45), in which White, an FM, got manhandled while Black demonstrated all the available ideas (...c7-c6, ...b7-b5, ...Ng4, ...f7-f5, etc).']

[7.b4! James Schuyler: 'certainly looks stupid and has lost all the games so far, but in analysis things are not so clear:' Bd4 (17.Rd1N was the right way to maintain the balance. 8.Nge2 Nxe4 (8...c5N can be met by James Schuyler: '!?' '!' James Schuyler: 'looks okay') 9.Nxe4 (James Schuyler: 'not' 9.Nxd4= N. Pert - Purdon, England 1996. James Schuyler: '??' '??' If Black is not satisfied with the prospect of the potential repetition that might occur in the line below, I can recommend 9...Nxc3!?N 10.Qd3 exd4 11.Qxd4 Qe7+= with a balanced but still complicated game. James Schuyler: ', winning') 9...Bxa1 Now in Siegel - S. Savchenko, Bad Wiessee 2002, Black could have obtained a pleasant edge with: 10.d6N James Schuyler: '! '!' (James Schuyler: 'stronger than' 10.Be3 James Schuyler: '!?' '!' Bd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 James Schuyler: ', though after ' 12.Qxd4 James Schuyler: '! '!' 0-0 13.d6 James Schuyler: 'White still has some play') 10...b6 11.h4! Followed by ... Rfd8 and, if necessary, ...Rd5. Bb7 12.dxc7 I don't see any problem for Black in exchanging the dark-squared bishops. Qxc7 13.Nd6+

James Schuyler: 'with full compensation and more than one way to pursue the attack. Against a dangerous and prepared (GM) opponent, Black would probably do well to avoid the whole mess with 8...c5, but otherwise it makes sense to pocket the material and let White try to figure out how to prove compensation.']

7...a5

[7...a6 James Schuyler: 'has done well in practice, but I can't see the logic of allowing White to accelerate his queenside play.']

8.Rb1

[James Schuyler: 'Instead:

' 8.Nge2 James Schuyler: '??' '??' James Schuyler: 'is still terrible due to' Ng4 9.0-0 White is starting to run out of constructive ideas. James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' Qh4 Now in Schoof - Zeitz, Germany 1988, Black's most ambitious continuation would have been: James Schuyler: '']

[8.Na4!?N The game continuation of 16...Rfd8 is equal. James Schuyler: 'is interesting, but not especially strong:' Ba7 9.c5 I prefer Black's position with the two bishops. (9.d6?! James Schuyler: 'is a little better, but' cxd6 James Schuyler: 'and 10...d5 will be sufficient for easy equality.') 9...d6 c a n b e m e t b y 10.Be3 James Schuyler: 'was R.Staudte-M. Roth, Chemnitz 1998, when' Nh4 looks natural although Black has no problems. A nice example continued: J a m e s S c h u y l e r : ' ! ' ' ! ' (James Schuyler: 'instead of' 10...Ng4 James Schuyler: '?!' '?!') 11.Kf1 Ng4 James Schuyler: '! '!' 12.Bd2 dxc5 James Schuyler: 'already leaves

White in poor condition.']

8...d6 9.h3 0-0 10.b4 axb4 11.axb4
Ba7

James Schuyler: '. Black was already slightly more comfortable in Bu Xiangzhi-L.Christiansen, Deizisau 2000 (see Game 46);'

12.-- Here Black has numerous reliable options, but I like the following calm move. N,N-12.Ne4

[James Schuyler: 'and Bu's' 12.g3!? Preventing the enemy pieces from using the g5-square. James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' James Schuyler: 'should have worsened White's situation after' c6 Here are a couple of other instructive lines I checked. (James Schuyler: 'or' 12...Bd7; James Schuyler: ', as opposed to Christiansen's' 12...Ne8 James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' James Schuyler: '. Black, who was better throughout most of the opening and early middlegame, ...lost.')]

5.Be3 Bb4+

[5...Nf6

A) James Schuyler: 'Other moves:

' 6.Bd3 b6 James Schuyler: '! '!' (6...Nh4 James Schuyler: '!?' '!'?

7.Kf1 b6 8.g3 Ng6 9.Kg2 Bc5

James Schuyler: 'is similar, but White is certainly not suffering from his inability to castle') 7.Nc3 Bc5

(James Schuyler: 'in V.Vilkov-A.

Provotorov, Kaluga 1996, the only time this position has been reached,

Black played the highly i n c o n s i s t e n t '7...Bb4

James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' James Schuyler: 'and went on to lose')

8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 James Schuyler:

'and there are many roads for both players, but they all lead to equal positions – the imminent and positionally favourable bishop trade

balances White's space advantage; e.g.' James Schuyler: 'and there are many roads for both players, but they all lead to equal positions – the imminent and positionally favourable bishop trade balances White's space advantage; e.g. and there are many roads for both players, but they all lead to equal positions - the imminent and positionally favourable bishop trade balances White's space advantage; e.g.' a5 10.Qd2 Qe7 11.Rfe1 d6 12.Bxc5 bxc5 13.g3 a4 James Schuyler: 'and the game is still balanced.';

B) 6.f3 Bb4+ (6...b6

James Schuyler: 'is still interesting,

but after' 7.Nc3 Bc5 8.Bxc5 bxc5

9.d6 James Schuyler: '! '!' James

Schuyler: 'White has balanced the

chances') 7.Nd2 Qe7

James Schuyler: '. Miles scored 4-0

from this position, beating GM

Kaidanov and IMs Shirazi and

L a n g e w e g ; e . g . ' (7...b6

James Schuyler: '!?' '!'?)

James Schuyler: '. Miles scored 4-0

from this position, beating GM

Kaidanov and IMs Shirazi and

Langeweg; e.g.' 8.g3 0-0 9.Bh3

c6 James Schuyler: 'and Black is

better, going on to win in G.

Kaidanov-A.Miles, Palma de

Mallorca 1989 (see Game 37)'

(James Schuyler: 'or' 9...a5;

James Schuyler: ', or' 9...Bc5

James Schuyler: '');

C) 6.Bg5 James Schuyler: '?!' '?!'

James Schuyler: 'is ridiculous here

and in all positions where Black can

play ...h7-h6. The bishop is way

too valuable to trade, and even

when it's possible to retreat, ...h7-h6 is always a useful move for Black. So' h6 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 James Schuyler: 'and White has even more dark-square problems than usual. Black's queen is also very happy on the f6-square.'

;
D) 6.Nc3 _____ Bb4 7.f3
 (James Schuyler: 'Against' 7.Qc2; James Schuyler: 'or' 7.Bd3 James Schuyler: 'Black plays exactly the same way.') 7...Bxc3+ I prefer this active move in spite of a few downsides; i.e. weakening the e6-square, and opening the game for White's lousy bishop. Black's rook will soon be enjoying the f-file, and the Ne7 will gain access to d4 via the f5-square; James Schuyler: 'Black's results are excellent (+21 -12 =8) with this move, so there is little need to worry about alternatives.'
 (James Schuyler: 'Sometimes B l a c k p l a y s '7...Qe7 James Schuyler: 'with the idea of trading the dark-squared bishops, but this is time-consuming compared to the text, and hasn't worked well in real life.'; James Schuyler: 'Quoting Joel Benjamin: "This is important: do not hang your bishop with 7...d6 8 Qa4+." (Actually, according to my database,' 7...d6 James Schuyler: '??' '??' James Schuyler: 'has been played three times and White has y e t t o p l a y '8.Qa4+ James Schuyler: ', even in the game where White was a GM. I won't name the GM. Can this possibly be right?! Can you explain

yourself, Pablo?)) After 7...f5, there is only one game in my database, H. Titz-C.Barlocco, Dresden 2004:

8.bxc3 d6

D1) James Schuyler: 'In fact, just about anything is better than the lemon' 9.c5 James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' James Schuyler: 'that White squeezes out most of the time, which leads to:

Position Four

Apparently it is just too tempting to liquidate the weak c-pawn, but the lines that open are all going to be seized by Black; and while White's weakness on c4 is no more, he has an even bigger problem on c3, which is directly in the line of fire, sitting on Black's half-open c-file. The games all go the same way: that White squeezes out most of the time, which leads to: *Position Four* Apparently it is just too tempting to liquidate the weak c-pawn, but the lines that open are all going to be seized by Black; and while White's weakness on c4 is no more, he has an even bigger problem on c3, which is directly in the line of fire, sitting on Black's half-open c-file. The games all go the same way:' James Schuyler: 'that White squeezes out most of the time, which leads to:

Position Four

Apparently it is just too tempting to liquidate the weak c-pawn, but the lines that open are all going to be seized by Black; and while White's weakness on c4 is no more, he has an even bigger

problem on c3, which is directly in the line of fire, sitting on Black's half-open c-file. The games all go the same way: that White squeezes out most of the time, which leads to: --- *Position Four* --- Apparently it is just too tempting to liquidate the weak c-pawn, but the lines that open are all going to be seized by Black; and while White's weakness on c4 is no more, he has an even bigger problem on c3, which is directly in the line of fire, sitting on Black's half-open c-file. The games all go the same way: 0-0

D1a) James Schuyler: ', and' 10.Bd3 Nd7 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 11.cxd6 cxd6 12.Ne2?! (I have been barely hanging on, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel since I will be in good shape if I can reach an endgame; also, it seems that White's attack is not simple to play) Qa5 James Schuyler: '!' '!' (James Schuyler: 'or' 12...Qc7) 13.0-0 Nc5 James Schuyler: ', and ...Bd7/...Rac8/...Na4, or ...b7-b6/...Ba6/...Rac8 on the queenside, and after White is pacified there, ...f7-f5 on the kingside. S.Brudno-J.Benjamin, Boston 2001, is a classic example (see Game 38), whereas in R. Mitchell-J. Schuyler, Bloomington 1991 (Game 39) Black focuses entirely on the queenside, a strategy which is far less effective, as we will see.' James Schuyler: ', and ...Bd7/...Rac8/...Na4, or ...b7-b6/

...Ba6/...Rac8 on the queenside, and after White is pacified there, ...f7-f5 on the kingside. S.Brudno-J.Benjamin, Boston 2001, is a classic example (see Game 38), whereas in R. Mitchell-J. Schuyler, Bloomington 1991 (Game 39) Black focuses entirely on the queenside, a strategy which is far less effective, as we will see. , and ...Bd7/...Rac8/...Na4, or ...b7-b6/...Ba6/... Rac8 on the queenside, and after White is pacified there, ...f7-f5 on the kingside. S.Brudno-J.Benjamin, Boston 2001, is a classic example (see Game 38), whereas in R. Mitchell-J. Schuyler, Bloomington 1991 (Game 39) Black focuses entirely on the queenside, a strategy which is far less effective, as we will see.';

D1b) James Schuyler: '. Can things really be that simple for Black? Not quite, but if White wants to get any play, he pretty much needs to go crazy like a Grandmaster (in I.Jelen-E.Dizdarevic, Ljubljana 1992 – see Game 40 – White went crazy like an IM, which did not work), as in E.Rozentalis-M. Lazic, Genoa 2004, which went' James Schuyler: '. Can things really be that simple for Black? Not quite, but if White wants to get any play, he pretty much needs to go crazy like a Grandmaster (in I.Jelen-E.Dizdarevic, Ljubljana 1992 –

see Game 40 – White went crazy like an IM, which did not work), as in E.Rozentalis-M. Lazic, Genoa 2004, which went . Can things really be that simple for Black? Not quite, but if White wants to get any play, he pretty much needs to go crazy like a Grandmaster (in I.Jelen-E. Dizdarevic, Ljubljana 1992 - see Game 40 - White went crazy like an IM, which did not work), as in E.Rozentalis-M. Lazic, Genoa 2004, which went' 10.cxd6 cxd6?! 11.Bd3

D1b1) 11...Qc7 12.Ne2

Nd7 13.h4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' Nc5 14.h5 Ne7 15.g4?? James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: 'and while White may not have been better, he certainly was scary, and he did go on to win after' Nxd3+??

. From completely winning to completely losing in one move, as we approach the time control. In my haste I both overlooked the fork and the fact that 29 Qg6 attacks f7. James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' White's position would have disintegrated completely after 16.Qxd3 . If you think I'm over this after just 26 years, you would be wrong. I resigned shortly. White, short on time and frustrated about being unable to break through, commits a horrible blunder, allowing his queen and rook

to be forked; instead, after 16...b5!? 17.Ng3 a5 18.Kf2 Ba6 19.Qd2 f6 20.Nf5 a crazy endgame arises – presumably White has some advantage Rf7 21.Rhg1 Rc8 22.Rac1 Kf8 23.Qb2 Nxf5 24.gxf5 Qc4 25.Qd2 h6 26.Bb6 Qa4 27.Kg3 Rb7 28.Be3 Rbc7 James Schuyler: '??' '??' (James Schuyler: 'Notice that White's pawn storm had less to do with blowing Black open than controlling the f5-square, preparing it for his knight. The square is especially important since, had Black been able to break with ...f7-f5, White's strategy would have failed. Notice, too, that Black was never losing – in fact, he was never significantly worse – until 28...Rbc7??. Instead' James Schuyler: 'Notice that White's pawn storm had less to do with blowing Black open than controlling the f5-square, preparing it for his knight. The square is especially important since, had Black been able to break with ...f7-f5, White's strategy would have failed. Notice, too, that Black was never losing – in fact, he was never significantly worse – until 28...Rbc7??. Instead Notice that White's pawn storm had less to do with blowing Black open than controlling

the f5-square, preparing it for his knight. The square is especially important since, had Black been able to break with ...f7-f5, White's strategy would have failed. Notice, too, that Black was never losing - in fact, he was never significantly worse - until 28...Rbc7??. Instead' 28...Rf7

James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: ', preparing the escape 29...Ke7 if necessary, would have preempted White's sacrificial attack and held the balance. White's ideal position wasn't so dangerous after all!') 29.Bxh6 b4 30.Kh4 bxc3 31.Bxg7+ Ke8 32.Qg2 James Schuyler: '1-0.';

D1b2) James Schuyler: '. Let's go back to move 11, set up the proper defence without fear, and try to play a little more quickly and actively on the queenside:' 11...Qa5 James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: '(or 11...Nd7 first)' 12.Ne2 Nd7 13.h4 Ne7 14.h5 h6 15.g4 f6 16.Qd2 Nc5 17.Bc2 b6 18.Ng3 (18.c4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' Qa6 James Schuyler: 'is equal') 18...Ba6 19.Nf5 Nxf5 20.gxf5 Rf7 21.Rg1 Kf8 James Schuyler: ', followed by 22...Rc8 with pressure on the c3-pawn.

We now return to our regular programming. ,

followed by 22...Rc8 with pressure on the c3-pawn. We now return to our regular programming.' James Schuyler: ', followed by 22...Rc8 with pressure on the c3-pawn.

We now return to our regular programming. , followed by 22...Rc8 with pressure on the c3-pawn. --- We now return to our regular programming.';

D1b3) 11...--;

D1c) 10.--;

D2) 9.Qd2 James Schuyler: '!'?' '!'?

D2a) James Schuyler: 'Palliser concludes that there is no point delaying castling, but I am finding that' 9...0-0 10.h4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: '(intending' Nh5 11.Bf2?! (James Schuyler: 'or' 11.Ne2 James Schuyler: ') is very dangerous for Black, who must be extremely resourceful in a dizzying array of variations in order to avoid disaster. (See for yourself – I won't bore you with the details. Frankly, I wouldn't even know where to start.) After the text move, Black can bail out to the queenside if things get too hairy too quickly – a surprising but valuable option!' James Schuyler: ') is very dangerous for Black, who must be extremely resourceful in a dizzying array of variations in order to avoid disaster. (See for yourself – I won't bore you

with the details. Frankly, I wouldn't even know where to start.) After the text move, Black can bail out to the queenside if things get too hairy too quickly – a surprising but valuable option!) is very dangerous for Black, who must be extremely resourceful in a dizzying array of variations in order to avoid disaster. (See for yourself - I won't bore you with the details. Frankly, I wouldn't even know where to start.) After the text move, Black can bail out to the queenside if things get too hairy too quickly - a surprising but valuable option!);

D2b) 9...b6

D2b1) James Schuyler: 'If 10 Bd3 (or 10 Ne2, for that matter), Black could castle, having lost nothing – but I would prefer to stay flexible with 10...Nd7; for example,' James Schuyler: 'If 10 Bd3 (or 10 Ne2, for that matter), Black could castle, having lost nothing – but I would prefer to stay flexible with 10...Nd7; for example, If 10 Bd3 (or 10 Ne2, for that matter), Black could castle, having lost nothing - but I would prefer to stay flexible with 10...Nd7; for example,' **10.Ne2** (generally a useful move, preventing Ng5 and making ...g7-g5 possible; here Black prepares to play 10...fxe4) Nd7 11.h4 h6 12.h5 Ngf8

. I was justifiably happy with my position. Houdini prefers Black and suggests ...Qd7, ...Bh7, ...Rf7, ...Raf8. However, I was a 15-year-old expert, therefore... James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: 'and 13...Nh7 will be like the main variation;' (James Schuyler: 'in Z. Koczka-Zsu. Simon, Hungarian Team Championship 2003,' 12...Ne7?! James Schuyler: '?' '?' James Schuyler: 'was 1-0 in 30 moves.');

D2b2) James Schuyler: 'If **10.Bd3** Nd7 11.Ne2 James Schuyler: ', Black can still delay ...0-0 in favour of 'Nc5 James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: '. Can White keep waiting before committing to either castling or h2-h4 - ?';

D2b3) **10.h4!** This knight covers the soft f4-square. Instead, Nf3 is vulnerable to ...Bg4 and will be loose if White finds it necessary to play g2-g3. James Schuyler: 'Not forced, obviously, but if this is what White is about, he is likely to get right to it.' 10...h6 James Schuyler: 'This stops White's pawn from going to h6, which would leave Black with a big cramp and weaknesses on the dark squares.' 11.g3

(James Schuyler: 'Someone will try' 11.h5 Nf8

James Schuyler: '! '!' James Schuyler: '(I just love this move – the knight heads for the open c5-square, whereas a knight on e7 would be going nowhere for a long time)' James Schuyler: '(I just love this move – the knight heads for the open c5-square, whereas a knight on e7 would be going nowhere for a long time) (I just love this move - the knight heads for the open c5-square, whereas a knight on e7 would be going nowhere for a long time)' 12.g4 N6h7 This is intended to discourage White from playing f3-f4, which would undermine Black's knight as it arrives on d4. James Schuyler: '! '!' James Schuyler: '(preventing 13 g5 and preparing an eventual ... Ng5!, while ... Qh4+ is also sometimes useful)' 13.Bd3 Nd7 . The position has been equal since move six, but somehow Black contrived to win in 75 moves (see Game 20). James Schuyler: '(Black is at least equal in spite of White's space – his knights are happy pieces, unlike White's sad bishops)' James Schuyler: '(Black is at least equal in spite of White's space – his knights are happy pieces, unlike White's sad bishops) (Black is at least equal in spite of

White's space - his knights are happy pieces, unlike White's sad bishops)' though 14.Kf2 is surely playable, hoping for a better opportunity to play ...f7-f5. It is now my great displeasure to show V.Rao-J.Schuyler, New York 1986. I had not yet started to use 1...Nc6 regularly, but it seemed like the perfect choice against the straight-laced, booked-up senior master. We pick up after 14...Nc5 15.Kg2 a5!? 16.Ne2 Ng5 James Schuyler: 'etc. It is even safe to castle kingside now.') 11...Nd7 James Schuyler: 'This transposes to A.Karpov-D. Chevallier, France 1993 (see Game 41). According to Palliser, this game was very influential and popularized the variation with Be3 for White. If so, the game's true theoretical significance was greatly overestimated – Black was fine well into the middlegame, and even better at one point. His only real problem was that he was playing Karpov!' James Schuyler: 'This transposes to A.Karpov-D.Chevallier, France 1993 (see Game 41). According to Palliser, this game was very influential and popularized the variation with Be3 for White.

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must be prevented. 16.Bd3 0-0 17.0-0 There is nothing wrong with this, but knights that control e4 are not permitted to control d4 as well! Qd7! James Schuyler: '. We no longer have to worry about a positional squeeze by White, real or imagined. White's knight will soon be established on the e4-square, but it has no forward movement and does not control important squares. One likely plan for us is ...Ne7-c8-b6 to close the b-file and pressure White's weakness on c4. We can also consider ... Rab8-b6 and ...Rfb8. Black is clearly no worse and I believe White has to be careful that he is not punished for his overextended pawns.')]

6.Nd2 Nf6 7.f3 Qe7 The queen supports the bishop. 7...d6 8. Qa4 + O o p s ! 8.Rc1 c6 I would have castle kingside and play exchange the bishops on c5 next. 9.Nh3 0-0 10.Be2 a5 11.a3 Bc5 12.Bxc5 Qxc5 The queen takes control over the dark squares. 13.Nb3 Qa7 14.d6 An interesting concept. White wants to kill our bishop behind the pawns. 14...a4 Black pushes the knight backward. 15.Na1 Re8 This rook move is multipurpose. The rook can attack the d6-pawn via e6 in the future. The rook also frees the way for the knight. 16.c5 b6 Black undermines the c5-pawn immediately. 17.0-0

bxc5 18.Bc4 The f7-pawn is under attack. White has the idea of Ng5.
 18...Qb6 Black attacks the b2-pawn.
 19.Rf2 19.Ng5 Rf8 ...Ba6 comes next. Black has no problems with an exchange on f7. 19...h6 Finally, Black takes control over the g5-square before actions on the center and queenside. 20.Rd2 Ra5 A mysterious rook move. I would have preferred to maneuver the knight to d4 instead. 20...Nf8 %cal Gf8e6,Ge6d4 21.Nf2 Ba6
 22.Bxa6 Rxa6 23.Nc2 Nf4 The right plan. 24.Ne3 Ne6 25.Nc4 Qb5 26.Nd3 Nd4 27.Rc3 Nb3 27...Re6 28.Rf2 Nd5 A beautiful move by Tony Miles! 29.exd5 cxd5 30.Ncxe5 White gives the material back immediately to avoid trouble. 30.Ne3 Retreating the knight would have run in: 30...c4 31.Nb4 d4!! 32.Nxa6 Qxa6 33.Rxb3 axb3 34.Nf5 g6 35.Nxh6+ Kg7 36.Ng4 Qxd6 Black pawns are monstrous. 30...c4 31.Nb4 Rxe5 32.Nxa6 Qxa6 33.g3 d4 34.Rxb3 34.Rcc2 d3 35.Rc3 R e 6 3 6 . R f 1 N d 4 34...cxb3 35.Qxd4 Re6 The d6-pawn falls next. 36.Qh4 36.Rd2 It is not possible to defend the pawn because of back-rank problems. 36...Re1+ 37.Kg2 Qf1 36...Rxd6 37.Kg2 Qc6 38.Qd8+ Kh7 39.Qe7 Qd5 40.h4 Rc6 41.g4 Rc2 42.Qe3 g6 43.Kg3 d6 44.Re2 Rxe2 45.Qxe2 Qe5+ White is doomed. 46.Kf2 Qxe2+ 47.Kxe2 Kg7 48.Kd3 Kf6 49.f4 h5 50.gxh5 gxh5 51.Kc3 Ke6 52.Kc4 f6 0-1 White resigns. For instance, the game could have continued: 53.Kb4 Kd5 54.Kxa4 Kc4 And Black will promote while White's king is stuck.

5) 2.d4 3.d5: Model Games-Shirazi, K

5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2

[If 6.Nc3 , we have that choice again - to take the strong diagonal or to double White's c-pawns. I prefer to have a queenside target, particularly since White has taken measures against our kingside play. Also, White's fianchetto leaves the c4-pawn without protection. So , we have that choice again – to take the strong diagonal or to double White's c-pawns. I prefer to have a queenside target, particularly since White has taken measures against our kingside play. Also, White's fianchetto leaves the c4-pawn without protection. So , we have that choice again - to take the strong diagonal or to double White's c-pawns. I prefer to have a queenside target, particularly since White has taken measures against our kingside play. Also, White's fianchetto leaves the c4-pawn without protection. So Bb4 7.Bg2 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 d6 9.Ne2 (or 9.h4 h6 with a comfortably equal position very similar to A.Karpov-D. Chevallier in A22 - if with a comfortably equal position very similar to A.Karpov-D.Chevallier in A22 – if with a comfortably equal position very similar to A.Karpov-D.Chevallier in A22 - if 10.h5?! then Nf8! with advantage) 9...0-0 and Black has won every game. White's plan to play f2-f4 is far too weakening - after ... e5xf4 g3xf4, White has problems on c4, e4, f4, g4, and h4. While Black is waiting for f2-f4, he can play ...b7-b6, ...Nd7, ...Nc5, ...f7-f5 and perhaps ... a7-a5 and ...Ba6. E.Schiendorfer-D. Recuero Guerra, Herceg Novi 2006, is

a typical disaster for White (see Game 44).]

6...Bc5 7.Ne2 d6

[7...h5! , when 8...h4 cannot be stopped because 8.h4? (or 8.Bg5? Bxf2+) 8...Ng4 9.0-0? (or 9.Rf1 Qf6!) 9...Nxe4! is awful for White.]

8.0-0 0-0 8...h5 Pushing the h-pawn is also a strong alternative. 9.Nbc3

a6 10.Na4 Ba7 11.b4 Bd7 Until here, we are already familiar with all the ideas. 12.h3 b5 13.Nb2 c5

14.bxc5 Bxc5 15.Nd3 Bb6 16.cxb5 axb5 17.Kh2 Ra4 Black targets the e4-pawn immediately. This move also allows the doubling/tripling along the a-file to target the a2-pawn.

18.Nb2 Ra6 18...Rxe4 19.Bxe4 Nxe4 With a strong initiative. For instance: 20.f3 Nxe3 21.Nxe3 Qh4 And White is lost. 19.Qb3

Qa8 20.Nd3 Ra4 The rook comes back immediately. 21.Nc3 Bd4 22.Bb2 22.Nxa4 bxa4 White is lost.

22...Bxc3 23.Bxc3 Nxe4 24.Bb4 f5 Black continues with our typical breakthrough. 25.f3 Nf6

25...Nd2 26.Bxd2 Ra3 27.Qc2 Rc8 28.Qb1 Qxd5 White's position collapses. 26.Bxd6 Re8

27.Nb4 f4 A strong move. Black weakens the dark squares around White's king. 28.g4 Nh4 29.Rae1

e4 30.fxe4 30.Bxf4 Nxe3 31.Kxe3 exf3+ 32.Kh2 h5!! 33.g5 Re2+ 34.Rxe2 fxe2 35.Re1 Ra3 and White is doomed. 30...Ra3 31.Qd1

Rg3 32.Rf2 Can you spot the winning move? 32...Bxe4 33.Qc1

33.hxg4 Nxe4+ And everything will fall. 33...Nxe3 34.Rxe3 Rxe3+

35.Kg1 f3 36.Rg3 Nxe4 37.Rxe4 Rxe4 38.Rxe4 Bxe4 39.Kf2 Bg2 40.Kg3

Qd8 White resigns. 5) 2.d4 3.d5: Model Games-Bodnar,N

⁸⁹ **5...Bc5** We develop the bishop on his best diagonal and target the f2-pawn immediately. It is also possible to start with 5...Nf6 . However, there are some nuances between both moves. With our move order, we avoid 6.a3 and 6.h4. For this reason, this is my main recommendation. However, if your opponents' rating is below 2100, they will usually not be aware of those nuances. The good thing with playing 5...Nf6 first is that most of your opponents will continue with Bd3 + Nge2, falling most often for a common trap. For this reason, I would recommend this move order at least for Blitz and Rapid games. James Schuyler: '!' '!' 6.Nf3

[6.Bd3 White develops the bishop on d3 first. Next, he wants to continue with Ne2. Nf6 Starting with 6...a6/6...a5 to prevent Na4 is also possible. But this move sets a trap. Developing the Bishop, eyeing on f2 .

A) 7.Na4 White wants to get rid of our bishop immediately. Bb4+ 8.Kf1

We can exchange the bishops on d2 or spoil White's structure by taking on c3 if White plays 8.Bd2 or 8.Nc3. White's idea is to continue with 9.h4 and say the king is safe on f1. You will never face this line (or your opponent's account will soon be closed) , but there are interesting themes to discover, so I cover it. a6 We take advantage of the weak e4-pawn and want to strike with ...b5 next. 9.h4 White continues with his

plan. b5 10.a3 The best move. For instance, the game could continue: Bd6 The bishop will control the e5-square. 11.h5 White continues with his plan. Nf4 12.Bxf4 exf4 13.cxb5 0-0 We are going Benko style. 14.Nf3 axb5 15.Bxb5 Nxe4 The position is equal, but a complicated fight will take place. If the opponent pushes h5-h6, we play ...Qf6-Qxg7 instead of taking ...gxh6. This is a very advanced line, most of the accounts which played Kf1! are now closed. But the ...a6/...b5 theme is interesting and I wanted to share it with you. 2) 2.d4 3.d5: White plays 4.c4-White plays 4.c4 and 5.Nc3 #1;

B) 7.h3 James Schuyler: 'Given an exclamation mark by some sources, which to me seems a little extreme – the move is more like an arguably necessary evil.' James Schuyler: 'Given an exclamation mark by some sources, which to me seems a little extreme – the move is more like an arguably necessary evil. Given an exclamation mark by some sources, which to me seems a little extreme - the move is more like an arguably necessary evil.' 0-0 8.Nge2

B1) 8...a5 James Schuyler: 'is also worth considering – it slows down White's b2-b4, though it does leave Black's queenside less flexible and weakens the b5-square.' James Schuyler: 'is also worth considering – it slows down White's b2-b4, though it does leave Black's queenside less flexible and weakens the b5-square. is also worth considering

- it slows down White's b2-b4, though it does leave Black's queenside less flexible and weakens the b5-square.';

B2) James Schuyler: 'K.Ellmauer-D.Huber, Schwarzach 2001, went' 8...d6 James Schuyler: '(8...a5 is a better move order)' 9.0-0 a5 10.Kh1!? 21...e5 is also fine as White won't be able to get his knight to d5 easily. James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' Nh5 11.g4 James Schuyler: '??' '??' Qh4 James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' (11...Nhf4 1/2-1/2 Marczell - Haugen, email 2011. James Schuyler: '!' '!') 12.Kg2 1/2-1/2 Ressler - Aleksandrov, corr. 2013. Another game was soon drawn after 12...Bxg4 13.hxg4 Qxg4+ 14.Ng3 James Schuyler: '?' '?' (14.Kh2) 14...Ngf4+ 15.Bxf4 Nxf4+ 16.Kg1 Qxg3+ James Schuyler: '0-1. Short and sweet.';

B3) James Schuyler: 'I.Jelen-Z. Mestrovic, Slovenian Team Championship 1996, saw' 8...Nh5 James Schuyler: '!? '!' 9.g3 James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' James Schuyler: ', which is incorrectly assessed by De Firmian as better for White – a case of annotating by result.' James Schuyler: ', which is incorrectly assessed by De Firmian as better for White – a case of annotating by result. , which is incorrectly assessed by De Firmian as better for White - a case of annotating by result.' (9.Na4 James Schuyler: '!' '!')

B3a) James Schuyler: '. The

game continued preposterously with' 9...Qf6!N James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' 10.Rh2 d6!⚡ Preparing ...Kf7. James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' (10...Qd8 when Black is fine. James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: 'is equal') 11.Na4 occurred in Slingerland - Pijpers, Leiden 2013, and here I like Bb4+N James Schuyler: '??' '??' 12.Nec3 James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: 'and Black's h5-knight is toast.';

B3b) James Schuyler: '. Going back to move nine, it is true that White has more space, but his position is very loose. Simply' 9...a6 ?? is impossible due to James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: ', followed by ...d7-d6 and ...c7-c6, and what moves does White imagine that he is going to be playing? For example,' 10.0-0 d6 11.Kh2+ when White has no way out of the pin. Nf6 has been the choice of a lot of engines, but both 12.Rb1 and 19...Rac8 have proved fine for Black. The issue for White is that the e6-pawn is never really hanging as he will not be able to get his knight out of the pin along the e-file. c6 is White's most direct approach but he does not have time to create any threats. 13.b4 Qd7 14.Ng1!? Bd4 15.Nce2 Ba7 James Schuyler: 'and White's position is slowly degrading.';

B3c) 9...-- was dinkelberger - frauholle, engine game 2013 - the only example I found where White actually captured the e-pawn. My engine informs me that Black is clearly better after;;

B4) 8...a6 James Schuyler: 'Not the only good move.' 9.0-0 d6 (9...Nh5 James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' James Schuyler: 'was no good because of ' 10.Na4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' Ba7 This position has undergone an awful lot of correspondence and engine testing. All the correspondence games have been drawn, while in the all-computer battles Black has won four to White's one, with lots of draws. Meanwhile, over the board Black has scored 21/2/3. The verdict is that Black is doing fine with his strong bishop and extra central pawn, even if the king feels slightly looser than would like. It is best to keep the pawn on e6 for a while to avoid giving White an outpost on d5. 11.d6 This has been played in all three over-the-board encounters. James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: 'with a small edge and a large disruption of Black's plans.') 10.Ng3 James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: 'Otherwise, the nasty 10...Nh5! is coming;' (James Schuyler: 'e.g.' 10.Rb1 Nh5 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 11.b4 Ba7 12.Kh1!? This move keeps a little more tension in the position. Nhf4 I previously wrote that I thought this was White's

best chance in the entire 10.Kb1 complex, but I still don't think Black has anything to worry about. James Schuyler: 'and ... Qh4 or ...Nh4 with threats against g2, h3, and f2.' 10...-- N,N-16.c3 James Schuyler: 'The position after 10 Ng3 has never b e e n r e a c h e d ; '

(James Schuyler: 'but we have many reasonable and sensible moves such as' 10...Bd7; 10...Re8; James Schuyler: 'or' 10...h6 James Schuyler: '(with equality), and ...c7-c6 may be on the cards.

One interesting idea is ...Nf4. One thing we absolutely do not need to worry about is Bxf4 exf4 - White's good bishop is too valuable to squander in such a fashion, and our pawn on f4 is strong, not weak. We will very much enjoy the use of the e5-square for our knight, bishop, rook, or queen. Even if ...g7-g5 is necessary to defend f4, Black's kingside will remain safe. (with equality), and ...c7-c6 may be on the cards. One interesting idea is ...Nf4. One thing we absolutely do not need to worry about is Bxf4 exf4 - White's good bishop is too valuable to squander in such a fashion, and our pawn on f4 is strong, not weak. We will very much enjoy the use of the e5-square for our knight, bishop, rook, or queen. Even if ...g7-g5 is necessary to defend f4, Black's kingside will remain safe.' James Schuyler: '(with equality), and ... c7-c6 may be on the cards.

One interesting idea is ...Nf4. One thing we absolutely do not need to worry about is Bxf4 exf4 - White's good bishop is too valuable to squander in such a fashion, and our pawn on f4 is strong, not weak. We will very much enjoy the use of the e5-square for our knight, bishop, rook, or queen. Even if ...g7-g5 is necessary to defend f4, Black's kingside will remain safe. (with equality), and ...c7-c6 may be on the cards. --- One interesting idea is ...Nf4. One thing we absolutely do not need to worry about is Bxf4 exf4 - White's good bishop is too valuable to squander in such a fashion, and our pawn on f4 is strong, not weak. We will very much enjoy the use of the e5-square for our knight, bishop, rook, or queen. Even if ...g7-g5 is necessary to defend f4, Black's kingside will remain safe.'; James Schuyler: 'Another idea is ...Bd4 and ...c7-c5, anchoring the bishop. In this closed position, we will not mind if our bishop gets traded off, especially since we will wind up with a protected passed pawn on the d4-square (if the bishop is taken, either recapture can be considered, though ...e5xd4 is the typical answer). Naturally, White will not be eager to play d5xc6 (en passant) because of the loss of space and centre.' 10...Bd4 James Schuyler: 'is not the most accurate'; James Schuyler: 'but' 10...h6 11.Na4 James Schuyler: 'can

definitely be met by 'Bd4
James Schuyler: 'and 12...c5.');

C) 7.Be3!?N (After b6
James Schuyler: '!' '!' James
Schuyler: 'transposes to A22 above
(the first note).' (7...Bxe3!?)
I think Black's position is fully
playable but it's a matter of taste;
I happen to quite enjoy sacrificing
my queen! James Schuyler: 'isn't
the worst move ever, but it loses
the f4-square for Black's knights,
which love to settle there and
checkmate White.');

D) James Schuyler: 'Admittedly 7
h3 is far superior to' **7.Nge2**
This move loses the game
immediately. More than 8700
games have reached this position!
Note: If you start with 5...Nf6, you
will have more chances to set this
trap. The most played move in this
position is a blunder! James
Schuyler: '??' '??' 7...Ng4
We attack the f2-pawn. Attacking
f2 with two pieces. 8.0-0
8.Rf1 Nh4 Everything falls next.
8...Nhx2 Is also possible. 8.Be3
Bxe3 9.fxe3 Nxe3 8.f3 That
doesn't prevent our threat. 8...Nf2
By far the most played move,
making things even worse. Qh4
We threaten mate on h2. '=' White
has picked up a pawn but is left
with a vulnerable kingside. Both
correspondence games were drawn
fairly quickly. A strong move with a
double purpose: Putting more
pressure on f2 while threatening
checkmate on h2 . James
Schuyler: ', winning.' 9.h3
White attacks the knight and
prevents mate on h2. Preventing

checkmate. Nxf2 White is lost and
must give the rook. Capturing a
pawn, threatening to capture the
Queen next move with a discovered
check from the Bishop. 10.Qe1
White often plays this move to
avoid losing the rook. Indeed, this
avoids the loss of the rook. The
only inconvenience is that we can
checkmate White in three moves.

(10.Rxf2 A necessary
intervention... Qxf2+ 10...Bxf2+ is
equally good. But by taking with the
Queen, there is a chance that Black
will finish the game very soon!

11.Kh2 11.Kh1 is better

CC StartBracket CC -4.

5 CC EndBracket CC . Nh4

Threatening checkmate on g2 .

12.Qh1 There is no way to defend

g2 without losing the game or

without losing more material, e.g.

12.Qg1 runs into 12...Nf3 , forking

King and Queen. Nf3# A beautiful

checkmate! White can't capture the

pawn since it is pinned. 9.

Miscellaneous-Nimzowitsch

Defense,K) 10...Nhx3+ 11.Kh2

Nf2+ 12.Kg1 Qh1# Oops! 2) 2.d4

3.d5: White plays 4.c-White plays 4.

c4 and 5.Nc3 #1]

[6.g3 White wants to put his bishop in

fianchetto. Nf6 We continue our

development. 7.Bg2

A) 7...0-0 8.-- but castling is

flexible, A25 G3-N,N [James

Schuyler] (and leads into the

amusing miniature H.Titz-C.Rossi,

Austrian Team Championship 2001:

8.Nf3 d6 9.0-0 a6 10.Qd3 b5

11.b3 Bd7 12.a4 b4 13.Nd1 Qc8

14.Be3 Nxe4 15.Nxe5 Nxe5

16.Qxe4 Bf5 17.Qh4 Ng6

0-1. White resigned because 18.Qh5 Bg4 19.Qg5 h6 traps the queen. --- As seen in this game, ...a7-a6 is often the best way to preserve the bishop in this variation, because with White's bishop fianchettoed, the advance ...b7-b5 is easy to achieve and likely to be effective. traps the queen. As seen in this game, ...a7-a6 is often the best way to preserve the bishop in this variation, because with White's bishop fianchettoed, the advance ...b7-b5 is easy to achieve and likely to be effective. traps the queen. --- As seen in this game, ...a7-a6 is often the best way to preserve the bishop in this variation, because with White's bishop fianchettoed, the advance ...b7-b5 is easy to achieve and likely to be effective.);

B) 7...a5;

C) and 7...h5 are also interesting;

D) 7...d6 8.Nge2 The most common move. Here, we can continue with 8...a5 followed by ...d6, ...O-O, and our typical ideas. However, it is also possible to start an attack. h5 We want to push h5-h4 next. 9.h4 White prevents our idea. However, this loses immediately. Ng4 We target the f2-pawn. 10.Rf1 White protects the f2-pawn with his rook. Nxh4 Again! 11.gxh4 Nxf2 Everything will fall. 12.Rxf2 Qxh4 13.Ng3 White gives up his knight to bring his queen. Qxg3 14.Qf3 Bxf2+ 15.Qxf2 Qxf2+ Black is much better in this endgame. 2) 2.d4 3.d5: White plays 4.c-White plays 4.c4 and 5.Nc3 #2]
James Schuyler: 'This is a difficult

decision, especially since we will need to know the positions after'

6...Nf6 We continue our development.

James Schuyler: 'anyway because of the different move orders White can use (see line A21 for this).'

James Schuyler: 'For' 7.Bd3

James Schuyler: 'isn't so great either.' James Schuyler: ', see A24, notes to White's seventh move.'

[7.Be2 James Schuyler: 'since' 7...d6

James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' James

Schuyler: 'is met by' (7...a5

James Schuyler: 'is sometimes played, but White is actually quite far from being able to play Na4 because the e4-pawn would hang. Holding off on ...a7-a5 makes sense because:

1. Black may change his mind and play ...a7-a6.

2. Sometimes Black can prevent Na4 with ...Bd7 instead.

3. It is possible to allow the bishop to be traded off under some circumstances - I have recently noticed that tempi sometimes matter in chess. is sometimes played, but White is actually quite far from being able to play Na4 because the e4-pawn would hang. Holding off on ...a7-a5 makes sense because: 1. Black may change his mind and play ...a7-a6. 2. Sometimes Black can prevent Na4 with ...Bd7 instead. 3. It is possible to allow the bishop to be traded off under some circumstances - I have recently noticed that tempi sometimes matter in chess.' James Schuyler: 'is sometimes played, but White is actually quite far from being able to play Na4 because the e4-pawn would hang. Holding off on ...a7-a5 makes sense because:

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(8.b4 James Schuyler: '(Bxb4 James Schuyler: '??' '??' 9.Qa4+ James Schuyler: ').') 8...0-0

A) 9.Qc2 Bd7 James Schuyler: 'This stops Na4 for now.'

(James Schuyler: 'Instead, D. Baramidze-E.Griezne, Baunatal 1999, continued' 9...a6 10.a3 Qe7 11.b4 Ba7 12.Nd1 James Schuyler: ', when Black got to demonstrate the typical manoeuvre' Nh5 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 13.Ne3 Ngf4 James Schuyler: 'which he used to good effect (see Game 36).') 10.a3 a5 James Schuyler: '. Black is slightly better.'

A1) James Schuyler: 'If' 11.Rb1 James Schuyler: ', we will certainly fix White's queenside pawns with' a4 James Schuyler: ';;

A2) James Schuyler: 'If' 11.b3

A2a) James Schuyler: ', we have available the slow plan' 11...Qe7 James Schuyler: ', 12...h6, 13...Nh5, 14...Ngf4, 15...Qf6, etc, which I provide because it's often necessary in similar positions';

A2b) James Schuyler: '; but here we just blast out' 11...Nh5 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 12.Nxe5 (12.g3 James Schuyler: 'is safer, but it does create a weakness, and Black is better after the simple' Nf6 James Schuyler: ', menacing ... Bh3 and/or ...Ng4') 12...Nxe5 13.Bxh5 Qh4 In my opinion, this is the most interesting option. 14.Be2 Necessary prophylaxis, as we can see from the following game: 14...f5 15.g3 Qh3? 16.Bf4! Rae8 (James Schuyler: 'or' 16...g5 James Schuyler: '!' '!' 17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.exf5 Ra6 James Schuyler: 'with more than enough for the pawn') 17.b4 (James Schuyler: 'not' 17.Bxe5 and Black was already lost in Kramnik - Morozevich, Monaco 2002. White now chooses between A231) 17.a5 and A232) 17.0-0. James Schuyler: '?' '?' Rxe5 18.Bf3 A231) f4 19.Bg2 A232) Qh5 20.b4 Bh3 21.bxc5 Bxg2 James Schuyler: ', winning') 17...axb4 18.axb4 Bxb4 James Schuyler: 'with clearly the better game for Black.';

A2c) 11...--;

A3) 11.-- N,N-16.Qc1;

B) James Schuyler: 'In B.Perrusset-I.Moullier, Paris 2005, White tried' 9.a3 White wants to continue with

b4. 9...a5 10.Rb1 (10.Bd2 Qe7 11.Rb1 Bd7 12.b4

James Schuyler: '?!' '?!' axb4 13.axb4 Bd4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: ' but she was

worse after the queenside had opened and it was Black who was successful in the end (see Game 35).') 10...Bd7 We take the a4-square under control. 11.b4 axb4 12.axb4 Bb6 We can put our

bishop on b6 because White can't play 13.Na4. Next, we can continue with our typical ideas. 2) 2.d4 3.d5: White plays 4.c-White plays 4.c4 and 5.Nc3 #1]

[7.Bg5 h6 We ask the bishop a question. 8.Be3 White wants to contest our strong bishop. (8.Bxf6 Qxf6 Our c5-bishop is a monster. For instance, the game could continue: 9.Na4 White tries to get rid of our bishop. Bb4+ 10.Nd2 Qh4 We attack the e4-pawn. 11.Qe2 d6 12.0-0-0 Bd7 The knight is misplaced on a4 13.g3 Qd8 14.Nc3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 White's queenside is doomed. c6 This strong move opens the path for our queen. Next, we can continue with ...O-O and ...Qa5. 2) 2. d4 3.d5: White plays 4.c-White plays 4. c4 and 5.Nc3 #1) 8...Bxe3 9.fxe3 White has a long-term weakness on e3. d6 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7 11...Ng4 followed by 12...Nh4 is also possible. But I prefer to avoid simplifications. Next, we will play ... a5 followed by ...Nc5. 2) 2.d4 3.d5: White plays 4.c-White plays 4.c4 and 5.Nc3 #1]

[James Schuyler: 'By now' 7.h4 James Schuyler: '?' '?' James Schuyler: 'is not possible because it does not address the threat of' Ng4 James Schuyler: '!' '!' James Schuyler: '']

7...0-0 We put our king into safety. Even if our f-pawn is still on the board, our f8-rook already put pressure on the f2-pawn by X-ray. 8.h4 White is not ready for this push.

[8.0-0 d6 Making room on a7 for the bishop first with 8...a5 or 8...a6 is also possible. This move has several virtues: - We defend the e5-square with our pawn and free the g6-knight from this task. - Our c8-bishop is opened - The c5-bishop is protected (8...a6 It is worth considering the following suggestion of Chris Ward: James Schuyler: 'is also reasonable, but the text move is sound and Black is 5-0 with it') 9.a3 White wants to continue with b4. 9.Na4 b6 10.Nxc5 bxc5 I'm always pleased with this structure as it reminds me of my beloved Czech Benoni. But if you prefer to avoid it and keep your bishop, you can play a5 before d6 .a5 We prevent this idea. This move also frees the a7-square for our bishop if necessary. 10.Rb1 White continues with the b4-plan. Nh5 We don't waste time and start playing on the kingside. James Schuyler: 'with a dangerous initiative in practice. In A.Hahn-J. Bonin, New York (rapid) 2003, White managed to block Black's favourite bishop with' 11.b4 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 and White is lost axb4 12.axb4 Ba7 Putting the bishop on b6 is also possible. The difference is that from a7, c4-c5 doesn't come with tempo.

This amusing move doesn't surrender the control of the a-file because of ... Bxf2 idea. (12...Bb6= beware - frauholle, engine game 2012. Now that White has played the weakening c2-c3, the following queen sacrifice is quite interesting: 13.Na4!? Ba7 14.Bc2 Nhf4 15.c5 White has a small material advantage but it will be difficult for him to utilize it. James Schuyler: ', but Black's attack was still strong, and he won a topsy-turvy battle (see Game 43).') 13.Nb5 White doesn't waste time and attacks our bishop. Nhf4 Trading on a7 will give us control over the a-file. From f4, our knight is a monster. For instance, the game could continue: 14.c5 dxc5 15.Nxa7 15.Ra1 Nxd3 16.Qxd3 c4 17.Qc3 Bd4! 18.Nbxd4 exd4 19. Nxd4 Rxa1 20.Qxa1 f5! with good play for Black Rxa7 16.bxc5 Bg4 17.h3 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Nh4 The g2-pawn falls next. 2) 2.d4 3.d5: White plays 4.c-White plays 4.c4 and 5.Nc3 #2]

[8.Na4 White attacks our bishop. Here, we can continue with 8...Bb4+ or 8...b6!. For instance, the game could continue: Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 Nf4 Black is already slightly better. 2) 2.d4 3.d5: White plays 4.c-White plays 4.c4 and 5.Nc3 #1]

8...d6 We invite White to continue with his h5-idea. 9.h5 Ng4 A strong move! We don't waste time and counterattack immediately. Black is already winning! 10.hxg6 White is completely lost after: 10...Nxf2 11.Bg5 Qd7 11...f6 is also possible 12.gxh7+ Kh8 The king is safe. 13.Qd2 Nxh1 14.0-0-0 Nf2 White is lost. 2) 2.d4 3.d5: White

plays 4.c-White plays 4.c4 and 5. Nc3 #1

5...Bb4 6.Nge2 White puts his knight on e2 and is ready to recapture on c3 with the knight.

6...a5 7.Be3 d6 Black invites White to play a3. 8.a3 Bc5 Of course, this is the only move. But I like this concept. Black is ready to take back with the pawn on c5. Later, Black can eventually install a blockader on the d6-square. But there is also a profound hidden idea. With no pawn on d6, Black's rook will be able to join the party via a6. Does this happen in the game? We will see soon : CC EndBracket CC

9.Bxc5 dxc5 10.g3 Nh6 From h6, Black's knight eyes both the g4- and f5-squares. 11.Bg2 0-0 12.0-0 f5

Black doesn't waste time and breakthrough immediately. Black plans to continue with ...f5-...f4.

13.Rb1 White plans to generate play on the queenside. However, it would have been preferable to take measures against Black's plan first. 13.exf5 White takes control over the e4-square and prevents...f5-...f4. 13...Nxf5 14.Rb1 White could now consider actions on the queenside. Both sides have chances. 13...f4 Black doesn't miss the opportunity and pushes his pawn. 14.f3 White prevents ...f4-f3 by pushing f3 himself. 14.Nc1 Qg5 All the Black pieces are joining the party.

14...Nf7 A good move! Both the g4- and f5- squares are under White's control. For this reason, Black reroutes his knight. From f7, the knight can reach the e5-square if White exchanges on f4, jump on d6

and g5, etc. 15.Qc1 White puts more pressure on the f4-pawn. 15...Ng5 Black activates the knight and protects the f4-square. 16.b3 h5 Again, a strong move. Black wants to undermine White's structure with ...h5-...h4. 17.Rf2 17.gxf4 exf4 18.e5 Nxe5 19.Nxf4 Trying to find counterplay in this way was preferable. However, the position was difficult to handle. 17...Qe7 17...fxg3 18.hxg3 h4 is the best continuation. ...h4-...h3 is coming. For instance, the game could have continued: 19.gxh4 Nxh4 20.f4 exf4 21.Nxf4 Nxe5 22.Kxg2 Nh3! 23.Nxh3 Bxh3+ 24.Kg1 Qh4 With a crushing attack. 18.Qb2 Ra6 Again, beautiful chess by Matthew Sadler. The rook was useless on a8, but now, it will join the attack via a6. 19.gxf4 The knight will jump on the e5-square next. 19...exf4 20.Qd2 Ne5 21.Kh1 White tries to find safety for his king, but it is already too late. 21...h4 22.Ng1 h3 23.Bf1 Rg6 24.Rd1 b6 25.Nb5 Ng4 This superb move decides the game. 26.fxg4 Qxe4+ 27.Nf3 Bxg4 28.Be2 Bxf3+ 29.Bxf3 Nxf3 30.Qe2 White will try to save himself in a complicated endgame. 30...Qxe2 31.Rxe2 Nd4 32.Nxd4 cxd4 33.Rxd4 f3 34.Rf2 Re8 35.Rd1 White prevents mate. 35...Re3 Black defends and attacks at the same time. 36.Rdf1 Rf6 37.Rb1 Rg6 38.Rbf1 Rf6 Black repeats before the 40th move. 39.Rb1 Rf4 40.Kg1 Rg4+ A masterpiece by Matthew Sadler! 5) 2.d4 3.d5: Model Games-Enders, P

⁹⁰ **6.h4** James Schuyler: '!' '!' James

Schuyler: 'and Black is back on less solid ground.'

⁹¹ **8.Nge2** d6 9.Ng3 h5 10.Qe2 h4 11.Nf1 Nf4 12.Qd2 N6h5 13.Ne3 Qg5 14.0-0 h3 15.g4 g6 16.b4 f5 17.c5 fxg4 18.cxb6 gxf3+ 19.Kh1 Black to play. 19...Qg2+! 20.Nxg2 hxg2+ 21.Kg1 [21.Qxg2 was necessary, but Black is up a rook in an endgame after fxg2+ 22.Kg1 gxf1Q+ etc.] 21...Nh3# 0-1 (21) Northernimpact-Kingscrusher 101-150

⁹² **5.Nf3** White understands his mistake and prevents the check on h4. 5...exf4 For instance, the game could continue: 6.h4 6.Bd3 is well met with 6...Bc5 White wants to push our knight and get the pawn back. 6...h5 We keep the pawn. 7.e5 d6 We undermine the pawns immediately. 8.e6 fxe6 9.Bd3 N8e7 9...Qf6 and 9...Rh6 are also possible If allowed, we want to push ...e5. Next, we continue our development with: - ...Bg4/...Bxe6 - ...Qd7 and ...O-O-O. Black is already much better. 4) 2.d4 3.d5: various 4th mov-White plays 4.f4 #4

⁹³ **8.Ke3** Bc5+ White will be checkmated soon. For instance: 9.Ke2 Qf2+ 10.Kd3 Qd4+ 11.Ke2 Ng3+ 12.hxg3 Qe4+ 13.Be3 Qxe3# #1 I analyzed this variation in depth in Common Traps 4) 2.d4 3.d5: various 4th mov-White plays 4.f4 #1

⁹⁴ **3.Nc3** p. 252, n. 109: '!' Nimzowitsch, A.: '!' Nimzowitsch, Aron: 'Safer would be' 3...e6

Nimzowitsch: '△'

[3...dxe4 4.d5 The Rubinstein Variation in Nimzo Indian is one of the oldest and the most tested in practice classical approaches in this opening. Developed in the early 1900s by the top players of that era, popularized mainly by Rubinstein and his e3-Ne2 idea (the Rubinstein Variation in its purest form), these days it went through well-scrutinized analysis by modern top players with the support of best engines. Over the years many variations were tested and tried. With such a strategically sound opening like Nimzo, it is pretty much impossible to find an objective advantage if Black plays sound lines. And it is neither my objective to refute 100+ years of theory that Stockfish and Lc0 support. But finding playable positions that pose some practical problems for players who are not thoroughly familiar with the ideas is highly possible.

A) 4...Ne5 5.f3 exf3 6.Nxf3 Nxf3+ (△6...Ng6; RR6...Bg4 7.Bf4 Nxf3+ 8.gxf3 Bd7 9.Nb5±) 7.Qxf3 Nf6 8.Bf4 a6 (8...Bg4 9.Qg3 c6) 9.h3 g6 10.g4 Komodo 9.1 64-bit (10s): 'last book move' Bg7 11.0-0-0 Bd7 (11...0-0 12.Qg3 Ne8 13.--△Nd6) 12.Qg3 Rc8 13.Be2 Komodo 9.1 64-bit (10s): 'Black has a cramped position' 0-0 (RR13...c6 14.dxc6 Rxc6 15.Rd3 Qc8 16.Rhd1 Be6 17.Bf3 Rc4 18.Bxb7+-) 14.h4 c6 Komodo 9.1 64-bit (10s): 'Secures b5' 15.h5 Komodo 9.1 64-bit (10s): 'White gets more space.' (15.dxc6!? has some apparent merit bxc6 16.Be5=) 15...Nxd5 Komodo 9.1

64-bit (10s): ' ♔'' ♔' (15...Re8 16.g5; RR15...cxd5 16.hxg6 fxc6 17.g5 Ne4 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Qb3+ e6 20.Bg4 Rxf4 21.Rxd7 Qe8 22.Bxe6+ Kh8 23.Rxh7+) 16.hxg6

A1) △16...fxg6 17.Bc4 e6♔;

A2) RR16...Nxc3 17.bxc3 Qa5 18.Rxd7 (18.gxh7+ Kh8 19.Rxd7 Bxc3 20.Rh5 Qa3+ 21.Kd1 f6 22.Bc1 Qb4 23.Qf4) 18...fxg6 19.Bc4+ Kh8 20.Rxh7+;

A3) 16...Bxc3 Komodo 9.1 64-bit (10s): '??' '??' Komodo 9.1 64-bit (10s): 'forfeits the clear win' 17.Qh4 Komodo 9.1 64-bit (10s): '+-' '+-' Nf6 18.g5 (△18.Bg5 might be the shorter path Bxb2+ 19.Kxb2 Qb6+ 20.Ka1+-) 18...Qa5 (18...fxg6 is the last straw 19.gxf6 Bxb2+ 20.Kxb2 Rf7+-) 19.gxf6 h5 20.gxf7+ Kxf7 (20...Rxf7 21.Rdg1+ Kf8 22.Bh6+ Ke8 23.Rg8+)

A3a) RR21.Bxh5+ Komodo 9.1 64-bit (10s): 'BCM: 'RR' 'RR' Ke6 22.Bg4+ Kf7 (22...Qf5 23.Bxf5+ Kxf5 24.Qg5+ Ke4 25.bxc3 Bf5 26.Rhf1 exf6 27.Rd4#) 23.Qh7+ Kxf6 (23...Ke8 24.Qxe7#) 24.Rh6#;

A3b) 21.Bxh5+ 1-0 (21) Milner Barry, P-Mieses, J Margate 1935 British Chess Magazine [BCM];

B) This is by far the most accurate variation as it offers the most flexibility in the subsequent choice of setups, depending on what White chooses to play. Generally, I would suggest two different setups for

White here, just to add more flexibility and choice when facing 4...Nb8.

B1) 5.f3!?

B1a) 5...e3 6.Bxe3 g6;

B1b) 5...Nf6 6.fxe4 e5 7.Nf3 Bd6;

B1c) 5...e6 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.Bg5 Bb4 8.Qd4 Nc6 9.Bb5

B1c1) ♞9...0-0 10.Bxc6 (10.Bxf6? Nxd4 11.Bxd8 Nxb5 12.Be7 Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 Re8+) 10...Bxc3+ 11.Qxc3 bxc6 12.fxe4 (12.dxc6 Qd5; 12.0-0-0) 12...Nxe4!;

B1c2) 9...Bxc3+ 10.Qxc3 exd5

B1c21) 11.fxe4 Nxe4! 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qxc6+ Bd7 14.Bxd8 (14.Qxd5 Nxc5) 14...Bxc6 15.Bxc7±;

B1c22) 11.0-0-0 0-0 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Qxf6 gxf6 14.Rxd5 Ne5 15.Be2 c6 16.Rd4 e3 17.Re4? Be6 18.Rxe3 Rfe8 19.f4? Ng6 20.g3? (20.Rf3! Bd5 21.Rf2) 20...Bd5 0-1 (20) Kremer, H-Walter corr_157298 1964 UltraCorr3a [Walter];

B1d) 5...exf3 6.Nxf3 (6.Qxf3 c6 7.Bg5 Nf6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.0-0-0 Qa5)

B1d1) 6...g6

B1d11) 7.Bf4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nd7 (8...Bd7 9.Qe2!) 9.Qe2 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Ngf6 11.Rd1;

B1d12) 7.Qd4 Nf6 8.Bf4

Bg7 9.Nb5 (9.Qc4 c6 10.0-0-0 Qb6) 9...Na6 10.0-0-0 0-0 11.Bc4 Bf5;

B1d2) 6...e6!? 7.Bc4 exd5 (7...Bb4; 7...c6) 8.Nxd5

B1d21) 8...Be6 9.Bf4 (9.Ng5);

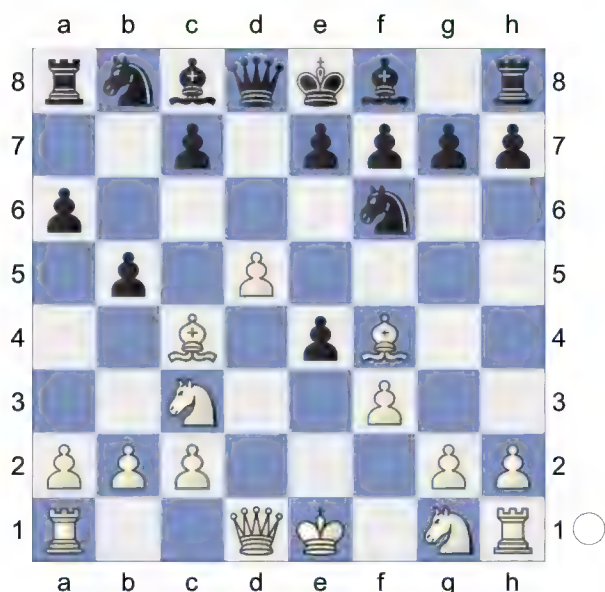
B1d22) 8...Bg4? 9.Qe2+ Be7 10.Bf4 Na6 11.0-0-0 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Bd6 13.Nxc7+! Qxc7 14.Bb5+ Kd8 15.Bxd6 Qc8 16.Bc5+ Chapter P3-Game Game 6;

B2) 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.Bf4 a6 A rare move but played a couple of times by GMs. The idea is to make space for the bishop on f8 which can be useful in some lines. Black also anticipates cxd5...exd5 where the rook would be well placed on e8. (6...g6 7.f3 exf3 8.Nxf3 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2 c6 11.Rad1 cxd5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Rxd5 Qb6+ 14.Be3 Qxb2 15.Rb5 Qc3 16.Rc5 Qa3 17.Ng5 Bg4 18.Rxf7 Rxf7 19.Qf2 Bf5 20.Rc8+ Bf8 21.Bxf7+ 1-0 (22) 8. ♔g5 ♘a6 9. ♘d2 ♔e8 6 (2460)-7. ♔c4 b5 8. ♔e2 59053 (2380) Saint-Vincent 84/(463) 2002 (4))

B2a) 7.f3 -0.21/20

'N' 'N' Knaak, Rainer: 'Basically, this move does not fit in with 6. ♔c4, but without ♔c4 Black easily gets in e7-e6. Im Grunde harmoniert dieser Zug nicht mit 6. ♔c4, aber ohne ♔c4 kommt Schwarz leicht zu e7-e6.' Knaak: 'Basically, this

move does not fit in with 6.♔c4, but without ♔c4 Black easily gets in e7-e6. 'Knaak: 'Im Grunde harmoniert dieser Zug nicht mit 6.♔c4, aber ohne ♔c4 kommt Schwarz leicht zu e7-e6.' b5



Strongly threatening ...e5. The position is equal. '=' The most logical follow-up to 6...Re8 as when the center opens, Black may try to play ...e5. 8.Bb3

B2a1) _____ This is by far the most accurate variation as it offers the most flexibility in the subsequent choice of setups, depending on what White chooses to play. Generally, I would suggest two different setups for White here, just to add more flexibility and choice when facing 8...exf3 0.57/20 8...c5 -0.23 . 8...c5 -0.09 Here Black has only one move that easily equalizes. Knaak,Rainer: '?' Knaak: '?' 9.Nxf3 '!' With this move

Black should equalize. Knaak,Rainer: 'White has a very good game. Weiß hat sehr gutes Spiel.' Knaak: 'White has a very good game.' Knaak: 'Weiß hat sehr gutes Spiel.' (9.Qxf3 0.01/17 9.Nxf3 0.53 9.Nxf3 0.49 Knaak, Rainer: 'is also good. ist auch gut.' Knaak: 'is also good.' Knaak: 'ist auch gut.');

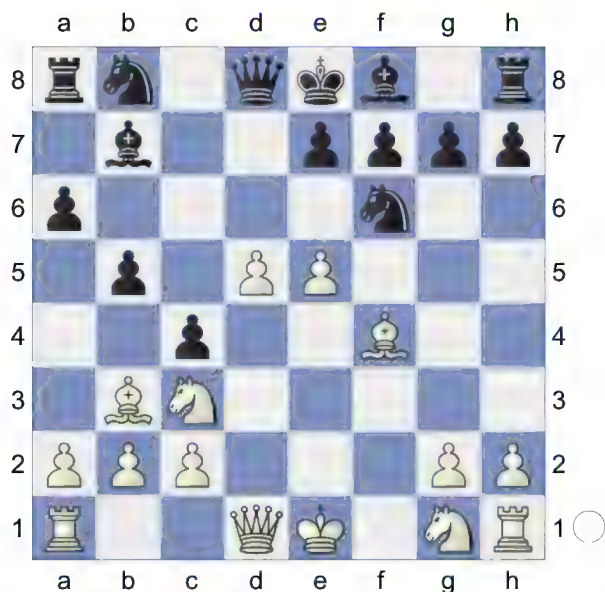
B2a2) 8...Bb7 9.fxe4

B2a21) 9...b4 1.31/18
9...c5 0.87



Knaak,Rainer: '?!' Knaak: '?!' 10.Na4 '!' Nxe4 2.30/19 (10...e6± 1.19/19; 10...e5± 1.26/19) 11.Qd4 1.11/20 '!' Black has only one move now. Knaak,Rainer: '±' Knaak: ' ±' (11.Qe2+- 2.30/19 e5 12.Qxe4); **B2a22)** _____ 9...c5 Hoping for ...c4. 10.e5 With a symmetrical

structure and equal chances. 30) Nimzo Indian: Alternative-7...c5 8.O-O cxd4 with 10...a Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 - 2023 c4 1.46/19 ($\triangle$ 10...Nfd7 0.76/18)



This is extremely risky for Black. 11.Bxc4! '±' bxc4 12.exf6 '!' Knaak,Rainer: '±' Knaak: '±';

B2a3) 8...e3 Unbelievable, but Black seems to hold here according to the engine. However, on human level, it looks incredibly scary, so I would be happy to get such position with White. Knaak,Rainer: 'is, of course, not playable; Black will play ♖b7 and after that c5. ist natürlich auch spielbar; Schwarz spielt ♖b7 und c5 hinterher.' Knaak: 'is, of course, not playable; Black will play ♖b7 and after that c5.'

Knaak: 'ist natürlich auch spielbar; Schwarz spielt ♖b7 und c5 hinterher.';

B2a4) 8...c5 ...e5! is the strong threat. aiming for ... c4. Knaak,Rainer: '!' Knaak, Rainer: 'This is the strongest here too. Das ist auch hier am stärksten.'

Knaak: '!' Knaak: 'This is the strongest here too.'

Knaak: 'Das ist auch hier am stärksten.'

B2a41) 9.Nxe4? is the wrong capture. too greedy. c4 10.Ne2 (10.d6 cxb3-+) 10...Nxd5-+ (10...cxb3? 11.Nxf6+ exf6 12.d6-+; 10...cxb3? 11.Nxf6+ exf6 12.Ng3-+);

B2a42) But not Don't play 9.fxe4 e5 10.Bxe5 c4 11.Bxc4 bxc4±;

B2a43) 9.dxc6 '!' 9...Qxd1+ The position is equal. 10.Rxd1

I think the rook on e8 is not much help for Black. In fact, in some lines, it is really misplaced! (10.Kxd1 simplifies exf3 11.Nxf3 Nxc6 12.Nd5) 10...Nxc6 11.Nd5 Nxd5 Intending Ne2 and Bc3, e. g. It makes sense to drop the bishop back to f8 as the rook, in a way, made space for the bishop there. But there is also a drawback of this move - when White plays Bg5, there will be a potentially

unpleasant pin. 12.Bxd5 Bb7 next ...exf3 is good for Black. 13.Bxe4 e6 and we are back at the main line. However, **CGStartFEN** **CG** rnbqr1k1/p1p2ppp/1p2pn2/3p4/1bPP4/2NBPN2/PP1B1PPP/R2QK2R w KQ - 0 8 **CG** EndFEN **CG** 8.O-O is also good: 8... dxc4 9.Bxc4 is analyzed after 7...dxc4. Knaak, Rainer: '- game' White should go for action in the center with d5. Either immediately, or after 14.Ne2 Bc5 '±'. An uneventful encounter.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) / Black=0.04 (flawless) . Not much happened in this game.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) / Black=0.01 (flawless) Knaak, Rainer: 'White's queenside majority is of no value. Black is perhaps even better, as above all the white king will find it hard to get a good square. Die weiße Damenflügelmajorität ist nichts wert, vielleicht steht Schwarz sogar besser, insbesondere der weiße König wird nicht leicht ein gutes Feld finden.' Knaak: 'White's queenside majority is of

no value. Black is perhaps even better, as above all the white king will find it hard to get a good square.' Knaak: 'Die weiße Damenflügelmajorität ist nichts wert, vielleicht steht Schwarz sogar besser, insbesondere der weiße König wird nicht leicht ein gutes Feld finden.' Nimzo Indian Alternative-7...c5 8.O-O cxd4 with 10...a Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 - 2023;

B2b) 7.Nge2 0.26/19;

B2c) 7.Qe2 Knaak, Rainer: '3. ♖c3 de4 4.d5 ♘b8-7. ♔e2 Analyse' Knaak, Rainer: 'This is a logical move - it clears d1 for the rook and attacks e4 - But Black obtains an advantage almost by force. Dieser Zug ist logisch - räumt d1 für den Turm, greift e4 an -, aber fast forciert erhält Schwarz Vorteil.' Knaak: 'This is a logical move - it clears d1 for the rook and attacks e4 - But Black obtains an advantage almost by force.' Knaak: 'Dieser Zug ist logisch - räumt d1 für den Turm, greift e4 an -, aber fast forciert erhält Schwarz Vorteil.' 7...b5 The most logical follow-up to 6...Re8 as when the center opens, Black may try to play ... e5. 8.Bb3 The position is equal. c5N Knaak: '!' Knaak, Rainer: '!' (8...Nbd7 9.O-O-O Nc5 10.f3 Qd7 11.Nxe4

Nfxe4 12.fxe4 a5 13.a3
 Nxb3+ 14.cxb3 g6 15.Nf3
 Bg7 16.Kb1 0-0 17.Rc1 b4
 18.a4 Qg4 19.Bxc7 Ba6
 20.Qe3 Qxg2 21.Be5 Qe2
 22.Qxe2 Bxe2 23.Bxg7
 ½-½ (49) Samulevicius, T
 (2215)-1.e4 player (2450) 9/
 460 Wijk aan Zee 1970 (1))
 9.dxc6! (9.Nxe4 Nxe4
 10.Qxe4 c4 11.Bxc4 bxc4
 12.Qxc4 Bb7 9...Nxc6

B2c1) 10.Nxe4 Nd4
 11.Nxf6+ -0.54/5 (11.Qe3=
 -0.18/20 Nxe4 12.Rd1
 Qa5+ 13.c3) 11...gxf6
 12.Qh5 Nxb3 13.axb3 Bb7
 Knaak: ' ♣ ' Knaak,Rainer:
 ' ♣ ';

B2c2) 10.Rd1 I think the
 rook on e8 is not much help
 for Black. In fact, in some
 lines, it is really misplaced!
 10...Qa5 11.Bd2
 Knaak: '?!' Knaak,Rainer:
 '?!' Knaak,Rainer: '1-0
 Keres, P - Larsen, B
 Stockholm jub 6667 1966
 (2) After this White no
 longer has equality. See the
 analysis of 11. ♖e3: Danach
 hat Weiß kein gleiches Spiel
 mehr. Siehe die Analyse zu
 11. ♖ e3:' Knaak: 'After this
 White no longer has
 equality.

See the analysis of 11. ♖e3:'
 Knaak: 'Danach hat Weiß
 kein gleiches Spiel mehr.
 Siehe die Analyse zu 11.
 ♖e3:' Nd4 Knaak: '!' Knaak,
 Rainer: '!' This happened in
 Dziuba-Gajewski (2020).

12.Nxe4! Qc7 Knaak: '!' '='
 Knaak: 'Knaak,Rainer: '!' '='
 '=' '=' '='

B2c21) 13.Bf4! Qxf4
 Knaak: '!' Knaak,Rainer:
 '!' (13...Qa5+ 14.Bd2
 Qc7) 14.Rxd4 Nxe4
 15.Bd5 Against Bb7 '='
 Ra7 16.Bxe4

B2c211) 16...Qc1+
 0.24/22 16...Rd7 -0.15

B2c2111) 17.Qd1

-0.76/21 17.Rd1 0.

61 Qxd1+ 18.Rxd1

Bb7 -0.32/20

Inhibits Bc6+.

Knaak: '=' Knaak:

'½-½ Hannebauer, T-

Daillet, E/EU-ch

GT320 corr 1990/

Corr Nr. 1 (35)'

Knaak,Rainer: '='

Knaak,Rainer: '½-½

Hannebauer, T-

Daillet, E/EU-ch

GT320 corr 1990/

Corr Nr. 1 (35)'

(18...Rc7 7 -0.71/18);

B2c2112) 17.Rd1

Knaak: '!' Knaak,

Rainer: '!' 17...Qxb2

White must now

prevent ...Qc3+.

18.Bc6+ Knaak: '♠'

Knaak,Rainer: '♠';

B2c212) 16...Rd7!

17.Qd2 -0.79/21

(17.Rxd7 7 -0.36/20

might be stronger.

Bxd7 18.Nf3)

17...Qxd2+ 7 18.Rxd2

Rxd2 19.Kxd2 e5

Knaak: ' ♣ ' Knaak,

Rainer: '♠';
B2c22) 13.Qe3 -1.19/21
 13.Bf4 -0.29 Nxb3!

B2c221) 14.Nxf6+
 gxf6

B2c2211) 15.cxb3

Rg8 16.g3 -2.08/21

(16.Kf1♠ -1.14/19

is a better defense.)

16...Bb7-+ 17.f3

Rd8 -1.12/19

(Black should play

17...Rg5-+ -2.09/21

18.Bc3 Rf5) 18.Rc1

-2.03/21 (18.Ne2♠

-1.12/19) 18...Qd6-+

19.Ba5 Rd7

-0.64/21

(19...Rg5!-+

-1.99/21 20.f4 Rd5

21.Bxd8 Qxd8)

B2c22111) 20.Ne2

-1.87/22

20.Nh3 -0.53 Rg5!

21.Qc3 e6! 22.a3

Rc5 23.Qxc5 Qxc5

24.Rxc5 Bxc5

25.Rf1 e5 26.Nc1

Ke7 -1.12/22

(Δ26...f5 -1.51/21

27.Ke2 Bd4)

27.Ke2♠ Ke6

-0.58/23 (Better is

27...Bd5!♠ -1.15/21

28.Bb4 Rc7

29.Bxc5+ Rxc5)

28.Nd3♠ Ba7

29.Bc3? -2.93/25

(29.Nb4♠ -0.68/22)

29...Bd5 -1.73/22

(Δ29...b4! -2.93/25

30.Bd2 a5) 30.f4-+

Be4! 31.Rd1

-2.09/26 (31.Nf2♠

-1.58/24 Bc2

32.b4) 31...Rxd3

32.Rxd3 Bxd3+

33.Kxd3 Kd5

-0.97/25

(33...exf4-+

-2.17/23 34.gxf4

Kf5) 34.h3 -1.43/25

(Δ34.fxe5 -0.97/25

fxe5 35.g4)

34...e4+♠ 35.Kd2

f5 36.g4 fxg4

37.hxg4 Bb6

38.Ke2 a5

...a4 would now be

deadly. 39.Bd2?

-5.46/24 (39.a4♠

-1.05/23

was the crucial

defense.) 39...a4!-+

40.Bc3? -10.88/23

(40.bxa4 -3.67/22

bx a4 41.Bb4)

40...axb3-+ 41.Bd2

Bd4 42.Bc1 Ke6

43.Kd2 -11.77/26

(Δ43.f5+ -5.14/23

Ke5 44.Kd1)

43...f5-+ 44.g5 Kf7

Knaak: '0-1 Muller,

H-Biaux, A/BEL-

FRA corr 1993/

Corr 2002 (44)';

B2c22112)

20.Nh3♠ e5 21.Nf2

f5 22.Qe2 -1.11/19

(Δ22.Rd1 -0.75/21

Qc5 23.Qxc5 Bxc5

24.Ke2) 22...f6

23.0-0 Rgg7

24.Rfd1 Qe6

K n a a k : ' ½ - ½

Andrieux,P-Biaux,A/
FRA AJEC/1209
corr 1992/Corr
2000 (24)' Knaak,
Rainer: '½-½
Andrieux,P-Biaux,A/
FRA AJEC/1209
corr 1992/Corr
2000 (24)';
B2c2212) 15.cxb3±
-1.11/20 Rg8
16.Rc1;
B2c2213) 15.Qxb3
-1.64/20 15...Rg8-+
16.g3 Bb7 17.f3 e6
18.Bf4 -1.75/21
(18.Ne2± -1.21/18
might work better.)
18...e5-+ 19.Be3
Rc8 20.Qd3 e4
21.fxe4 f5 -1.51/20
Knaak: '0-1 Dewar,P-
Dieu,B/W-ch GT283
corr 1990/Corr 2002
(21)' (21...Qe7-+
-1.98/22 22.Nf3
Bxe4);
B2c222) 14.cxb3
Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Bb7
16.Qg4 Qe5+ -0.50/21
(16...h5± -1.54/20
17.Qh3 Qe5+ 18.Be3
e6) 17.Kf1 -1.70/19
(17.Be3!± -0.50/21 e6
18.Nf3 Qxb2 19.0-0)
17...Rd8 18.Ba5
Rxd1+ 19.Qxd1 Qd5
-0.85/19 (19...f6
-1.31/19 20.Qd2 Kf7)
20.Qxd5± Bxd5
21.Nf3 e6 22.Ke2
Bd6 23.Rc1
Knaak: 'Prevel,J-Biaux,

A/FRA AJEC/1220 corr
1993';
B2c23) 13.Qd3 Nxb3
14.Bf4
B2c231) 14...Qa5+
15.c3 Bg4 -0.17/22
(15...Ra7!± -0.80/20
Threatens to win with ...
Rd7. 16.Qe3 Rd7
17.Rxd7 Kxd7) 16.f3=
Rd8 17.Qxd8+ Qxd8
18.Rxd8+ Kxd8
19.axb3 Nxe4 20.fxe4
f6 21.h3 Bd7
Knaak: '½-½ Chorfi,K-
Biaux,A/FRA AJEC/
1220 corr 1993/Corr
2000 (21)' Knaak,
Rainer: '½-½ Chorfi,K-
Biaux,A/FRA AJEC/
1220 corr 1993/Corr
2000 (21)';
B2c232) 14...Nc5
Knaak: '!' Knaak,
Rainer: '!' 15.Bxc7
Nxd3+ 16.cxd3 Bb7
Knaak: ' ± ' Knaak,
Rainer: '±';
B2c24) 13.Bf4± -0.35/22
Qa5+ (13...Qxf4
14.Rxd4 Nxe4 15.Bd5=)
14.Bd2;
B2c25) 13.Nxf6+
-1.07/20 13...gxf6±
Here, White can put a lot
of pressure on the e6-
and f7-pawns.
B2c251) 14.Qh5
-1.71/21 14.Qe4 -0.45
Nxb3! 15.cxb3 Qe5+
-0.64/22
(Knaak,Rainer: 'The
suggestion by Fritz of

Der Fritz-Vorschlag'
 K n a a k : ' T h e
 suggestion by Fritz of'
 Knaak: 'Der Fritz-
 Vorschlag' 15...Rg8
 Knaak,Rainer: 'is also
 very strong. ist auch
 sehr stark.'Knaak: 'is
 also very strong.'
 Knaak: 'ist auch sehr
 stark. '; 15...Rg8 $\bar{f}$
 -1.60/21 And now ...
 Bg4 would win. 16.Rc1
 Qd7) 16.Qxe5 $\bar{f}$ fxe5
 17.Ne2 Bb7 18.0-0
 Rg8 19.Ng3 e6
 -0.42/18 (19...h5 $\bar{f}$
 -0.80/21 ...h4 is the
 strong threat. 20.f3
 h4) 20.f3 0-0-0
 -0.28/19 (Black should
 try 20...Rc8 $\bar{f}$ -0.73/18)
 21.b4 f5 Knaak: ' $\bar{f}$ '
 Knaak: '0-1 Mary,P-
 Daillet,E/FRA AJEC/
 1190 corr 1990/Corr
 2000 (56)' Knaak,
 Rainer: ' $\bar{f}$ ';
B2c252) 14.Qd3 e5
 0.04/20 (14...Nxb3 $\bar{f}$
 -1.07/20 15.axb3
 Bb7) 15.c3? -1.56/21
 (15.Ne2= 0.04/20
 Nxb3 16.cxb3)
 15...Nxb3 $\bar{f}$ 16.axb3
 Bb7 -0.86/22
 ($\triangle$ 16...Qc6 -1.58/20
 17.Qf3 Bb7 18.Qxc6+
 Bxc6) 17.Nf3 $\bar{f}$ Rd8
 18.Qf5 Qc6 19.0-0?
 -4.40/23 (19.Nh4 $\bar{f}$
 -0.91/21) 19...Rg8-+
 20.Kh1 Qe6? -1.29/20

(20...Bc8-+ -4.28/23
 and Black stays clearly
 on top. 21.Qxh7 Rxc2
 22.Kxg2 Bg4)
 21.Qxe6+ $\bar{f}$ fxe6
 Knaak: ' $\bar{f}$ ' Knaak: '0-1
 Baer,H-Daillet,E/EU-ch
 GT320 corr 1990/Corr
 Nr. 1 (44)' Knaak,
 Rainer: ' $\bar{f}$ ';
B2c253) 14.Qe4
B2c2531)
 14...Nxb3? 0.01/21
 14...Bb7 -1.78
 15.Qxa8 $\pm$
 is typically better for
 White, but after 8...
 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 not 9...
 Nbd7?! 10.b3! \$14
 with the bishops pair,
 b u t
 CCStartFEN CCrnbq
 r1k1/pp3ppp/4pn2/
 2 p p 4 / 2 P P 4 /
 P1BBPN2/1P3PPP/
 R2QK2R b KQ - 0
 9CCEndFEN CC 9...
 c x d 4 ! B l a c k
 equalizes after 10.
 exd4 dxc4 11.Bxc4
 b 6 = o r
 CCStartFEN CCrnbq
 r1k1/pp3ppp/4pn2/
 3p4/2Pp4/P1BBPN2/
 1P3PPP/R2QK2R w
 K Q - 0
 10 CC EndFEN CC
 10.Bxd4 Nc6= .
 White's best try is
 CCStartFEN CCrnbq
 r1k1/pp3ppp/4pn2/
 3p4/2Pp4/P1BBPN2/
 1P3PPP/R2QK2R w

K Q - 0
 10 CC EndFEN CC
 10.Nxd4!? e5 and
 we can see now the
 benefit of playing ...
 Re8 earlier - the
 rook nicely supports
 ...e5. 11.Ne2 The
 pair of bishops may
 matter in the long
 run if Black does not
 do anything about it.
 However, with few
 logical moves, Black
 gets a very good
 game. 11...Nc6! The
 best and the most
 logical move for
 Black in this position.
 12.O-O Bg4! Black
 wants to provoke
 the weakening f3;
 also, there is an
 idea of ...d4. 13.
 cxd5 Nxd5! Black
 needs to play this
 move to equalize. It
 is essential to
 eliminate the pair of
 bishops, and
 unfortunately, White
 cannot do anything
 about it. 14.Rc1
 Qg5! \$132 with a
 double-edged play. I
 believe Black is
 completely okay,
 and White needs to
 be careful to not get
 worse. There could
 be threats around
 our king, and ideas
 of ...e4 and ...Ne5

are not so easy to
 deal with.
 CC StartFEN CC r2q
 r1k1/pp3ppp/2n2n2/
 3Pp3/6b1/P1BBP3/
 1 P 2 N P P P /
 R2Q1RK1 b - - 0
 13 CC EndFEN CC
 13...Qxd5 is less
 good due to 14.Qb1!
 Rad8 15.Rd1 Qb3
 16.Re1 \$14 and
 White retains the
 pair of bishops. Next,
 White wants to play
 Bc2, Ng3 and slowly
 improve their
 position. Nxd2!
 is another option,
 but I like it less.
 Note that after
 16.Rxd2, at the very
 least White can
 transpose to the 6...
 b6 line with Bh6

B2c25311) 17.Re2

O-O Hoping for ...
 Qa5+. 18.Qf3
 -0.84/21 (18.Qe4=
 -0.27/22

remains equal.)
 18...Qa5+ 19.Kf1
 Qxa2 Knaak: 'f'
 Knaak,Rainer: 'f';

B2c25312) 17.Rd1

and we are back at
 the main line.
 However,
 CC StartFEN C
 C rnbqr1k1/
 p1p2ppp/1p2pn2/
 3 p 4 / 1 b P P 4 /
 2 N B P N 2 /

P P 1 B 1 P P P /
 R2QK2R w KQ - 0
 8GGEndFEN GG 8.
 O-O is also good:
 8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 is
 analyzed after 7...
 dxc4. This is by far
 the most accurate
 variation as it offers
 the most flexibility
 in the subsequent
 choice of setups,
 depending on what
 White chooses to
 play. Generally, I
 would suggest two
 different setups for
 White here, just to
 add more flexibility
 and choice when
 facing 17...Qxc2 .
 18.Nf3 0-0 19.0-0
 Qxb2 Knaak: '𐌹'
 Knaak,Rainer: '𐌹';
B2c2532) 14...Bb7
 Black must accept
 the pawn sac.
 Knaak,Rainer: 'If
 you don't like the
 complications which
 follow, there is also
 a comfortable
 alternative: Wem die
 f o l g e n d e n
 Verwicklungen nicht
 geheuer sind, kann
 auch eine bequeme
 Alternative spielen.'
 Knaak: 'If you don't
 l i k e t h e
 complications which
 follow, there is also
 a c o m f o r t a b l e

a l t e r n a t i v e : '
 Knaak: 'Wem die
 f o l g e n d e n
 Verwicklungen nicht
 geheuer sind, kann
 auch eine bequeme
 Alternative spielen.'
 15.Qxd4 Bxg2

B2c25321)

16.Be3?! Bxh1
 17.f3 e6! (17...e5
 18.Qe4 Rc8
 19.Ne2[∞]

Bernard,C-Daillet,E/
 corr 1991/Corr
 2000 (22)) 18.Qxf6
 Rg8-+;

B2c25322) 16.Bd5

Rd8 (16...Bxh1?
 17.Bxh1 Rc8
 18.Ne2+-) 17.f3!

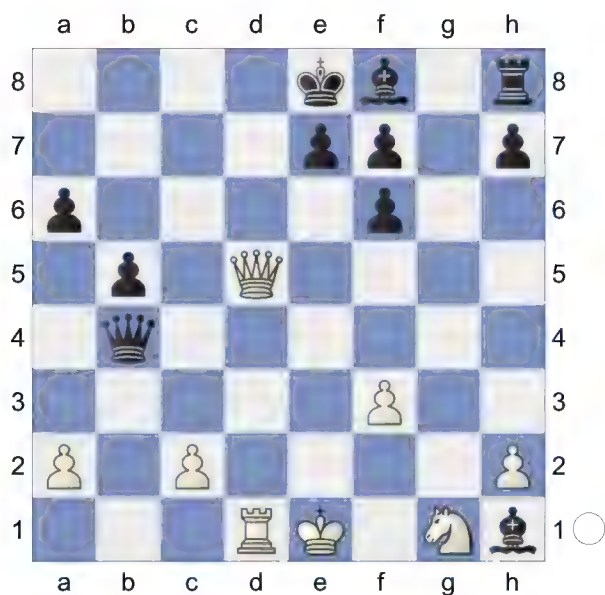
White has a very
 strong initiative.
 Black needs to be
 extremely careful
 now.

B2c253221)

Knaak,Rainer: 'Not
 the over hasty
 Nicht zu hastig'
 Knaak: 'Not the
 over hasty '
 Knaak: 'Nicht zu
 hastig' 17...Bxh1!?

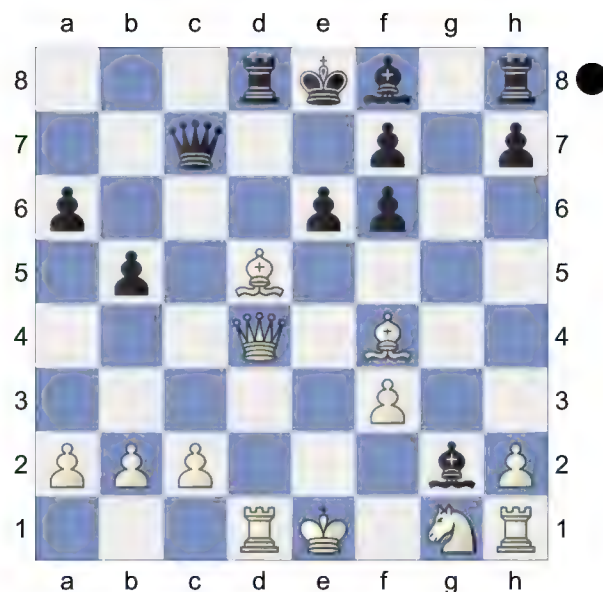
2.55/21 17...Rc8
 -0.90 is interesting
 too. Knaak: '?'
 Knaak,Rainer: '?'
 18.Ba5! Qxa5+± .
 The bishop retreats
 i n a d v a n c e ,
 anticipating ...b5.
 19.b4 was played

by Dziuba. I think
Black is fine after:
Rxd5 (19...Qc7 ∞
or 15...Nb6?! 16.
Ne5 $\uparrow$. Now
20.Bc6+
Knaak: '+-' Knaak,
Rainer: '+-')
20.Qxd5 Qxb4+



21.Rd2! Qxd2+
22.Kxd2
Knaak: '+-' Knaak,
Rainer: '+-';
B2c253222)
17...e6 18.Bf4
(18.Qxf6? -2.87/21
18.Bf4 -1.26 Rxd5
19.Qxh8
aiming for Bb4!
Qxc2 20.Ne2
Bxh1 ∞
Re1 is coming, and
we can keep
pressing. Knaak:
'-+' Knaak,Rainer:
'-+')

(Diagram)



White threatens
Bc6+! and mate.
18...Bd6!

The best defense.
(And not 18...Qxc2
19.Bc6+ Qxc6
20.Qxd8#) 19.Qxf6
Rg8 20.Be4
-1.04/22 Bxh1

Discovered Attack
21.Ne2!

Weighted Error
Value: White=0.14
(very precise) /
Black = 0.02
(flawless) Nimzo
Indian Alternative-
7...c5 8.O-O cxd4
with 10...a Lifetime
Repertoires:
Swiercz's 1. d4 -
2023 Knaak: ' ♠'
Knaak,Rainer: '♠']

4.e5

[4.exd5N Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'JvR:
'Mieses wants to play a quiet game. "
exd5 5.Be3 Bf5 6.Bd3 Nge7
Fritz 5.00 (5s): "'Ein Leben fur das

Schach": '!' JvR: '!'?"

A) 7.a3;

B) 7.Nf3 Qd7 8.Qd2 0-0-0
9.0-0-0 f6 10.Na4 Ng6 11.Bxf5
Qxf5 12.a3 Bd6 13.Ne1 Rhe8
14.g3 Re7 15.Nd3 Rde8 16.Nc3
Na5 17.Nb5 Nc4 18.Nxd6+
(18.Nxa7+? Kb8 19.Nc6+
bxc6-+) 18...Nxd6 19.b3 Qf3
20.Kb2 Nf5 21.Qa5 Kb8 22.Nc5
Ka8 23.Qb4 Threatening mate:
Qxb7 c6 24.Rhe1 Nxe3 25.fxe3
Nf8 26.Rd3 Ne6 27.e4

White prepares e5 Qf2

B1) 28.Rde3 Nxc5 29.Qxc5
dxe4 (29...Qxh2? 30.exd5
Rxe3 31.Rxe3+; ≤29...Rxe4
30.Rxe4 dxe4 31.Rxe4±);

B2) 28.Na4 Ng5 29.e5 Ne4
30.exf6 gxf6 31.Rde3 Qxh2
32.R1e2 Qh6 33.c4 f5 (33...dxc4!? 34.bxc4 Qg7-+)
34.cxd5 cxd5 35.Qa5 Qd6

B2a) 36.Rc2 b6 37.Qb5
Qe6 (37...Nxg3 38.Rc6
Qd8 39.Nxb6+ axb6 40.Qa6+
Ra7 41.Rxe8 Rxa6 42.Rxd8+
Kb7 43.Rh6+-);

B2b) 36.Nc3 Rd7 (36...Nxc3 37.Rxe7 Rxe7
38.Rxe7 Nd1+ 39.Kc1 Qxe7
40.Qxd5 Qe3+ 41.Kxd1=)
37.Nb5 Do you see the mate
threat? Qb6= (37...Qb8
38.Rc2 b6 39.Qa6) 38.Qxb6
The mate threat is Qxa7 axb6
39.Rf3 Rf8 40.Nc3 Rff7±
(40...Rg8!? 41.Nxd5 Rxd5
42.Rxe4 fxe4 43.Rxf7 Rxd4
44.Rxh7 Rd2+ 45.Kc3 Rd3+
46.Kc2 Rxg3 47.Rh2
(47.Re7 Re3=) 47...Re3
48.Rh8+ (48.Rh7 b5)

48...Ka7 49.a4 b5 50.axb5
Kb6 51.Rh7 Rg3 52.Re7
Rg4 53.Kc3 Rh4 54.Kc2
Rh2+ 55.Kc3 Rh4 56.Kc2
Kxb5 57.Rxb7+ Kc5 58.Kd2
Kd4 59.Rd7+ Ke5 60.Re7+
Kf4 61.Rf7+ Ke5 62.Re7+
½-½ (62) Andersen, E-
Nimzowitsch, A (2550)
Copenhagen 1927 [Fritz 5.00
(5s)];

C) 7.Nge2 Nb4 Fritz 5.00 (5s):
'JvR: '!'?" 8.Bxf5 Nxf5 9.Bf4 g5
Fritz 5.00 (5s): "Ein Leben fur das
Schach": '!' JvR: '!' JvR:
'Nimzowitsch continues to provoke.
" 10.Bd2 Be7 11.Qc1 f6 12.Nd1
Nc6 13.c3 Nh4 Fritz 5.00 (5s):
"Ein Leben fur das Schach": '!' JvR:
'!'?" 14.Ne3 Qd7 15.Qc2 f5 16.f4
Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'JvR: '!' JvR: 'The
advance by Black has to be
stopped. " (16.Rg1 f4 17.Nf1 f3
18.Neg3 fxc2+) 16...0-0-0
17.0-0-0 Rhf8 18.Rdf1 Rde8
19.fxc5 f5 draws heavy fire Fritz 5.
00 (5s): 'Will f5 fall?' Bxg5 20.Nf4
Ne7 21.Kb1 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'JvR:
'?' (21.Nh3! Bh6 22.Nd1!
keeps the control over square f4.)
21...Bxf4 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'JvR: '!'
22.Rxf4 Neg6 23.Rf2 f4 24.Nd1
Qg4 25.Bc1 Nf5 Fritz 5.00 (5s):
'JvR: '!' 26.Rhf1 The pressure on
the isolated pawn grows Nd6 27.h3
Qg5 28.Re2 (28.Qa4 a6=) 28...Re4
29.Ref2 Rfe8 30.Qd3
Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'JvR: '?' JvR: 'The
passivity will become fatal. " (30.g4
counters on the kingside.) 30...Nf5
31.Rg1 Ng3 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'JvR: '!'
32.Bd2 Qf5 33.a3 (33.Qxg3
Re3+) 33...Qe6 34.Ka1 (34.Bxf4

Nxf4 35.Qxg3 Ne2) 34...Qc6
35.Qf3 h5 36.Ka2+ (36.Qd3!?+)

C1) 36...Qb5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'N'

C1a) 37.Ka1??-+ _____ Nh4
0-1 (37) Mieses,J-Nimzowitsch,
A Bad Kissingen 1928 HCL
[Fritz 5.00 (5s)] (37...Nh4
38.Qxf4 Rxf4 39.Bxf4
Ne2-+);

C1b) 37.Bxf4 _____ Fritz 5.00 (5s):
'♠' 37...Nxf4 38.Qxg3+;

C2) 36...Qc4+?

C2a) ♞37.b3 Qc6 38.Qd3+
(≤38.Bxf4 Nxf4 39.Qxg3 Ne2
40.Rxe2 Rxe2+ 41.Nb2
R2e3-+);

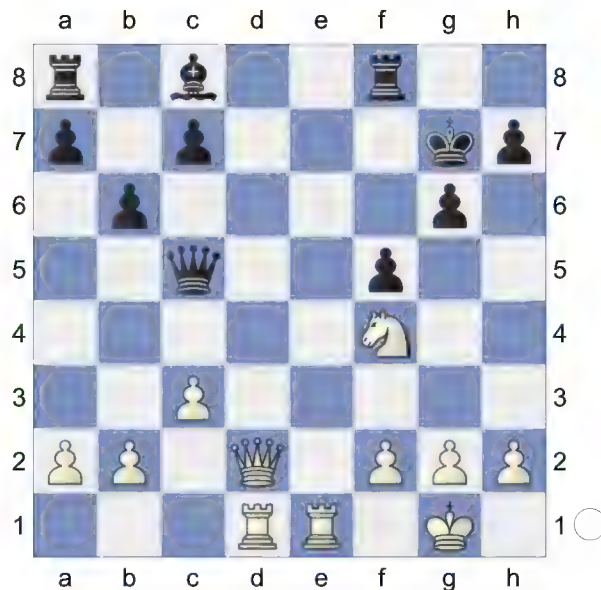
C2b) 37.Ka1??-+ _____ Fritz 5.00
(5s): 'JvR: '?' 37...Nh4
0-1 (37) Mieses,J (2575)-
Nimzowitsch,A (2550) Bad
Aussee 1928 [Fritz 5.00 (5s)]
Fritz 5.00 (5s): '0-1 Mieses,J-
Nimzovich,A/Bad Aussee m
1928 (37) JvR: 'The restriction
has been completed. White
loses his queen. ' (37...Nh4
38.Qxf4 Rxf4 39.Bxf4
Ne4-+)]

[4.Nf3

A) 4...Nf6 5.exd5 exd5 6.Bb5
Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Be7 9.Bg5
a6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.0-0 0-0
12.Rfe1 h6 13.Bh4 Qd7 14.Re2
a5 15.Rae1 Bd8 16.a3 Rb8
17.Na4 Ne4 18.Bxd8 Rbxd8
19.Qf4 Fischer,R-Petrosian,T/
Buenos Aires cm 1971/1-0 (46)
Qd6 20.Qxd6 cxd6 21.c4 Nf6
22.Rc1 Rb8 23.cxd5 cxd5 24.f3
Nh5 25.Rc6 Nf4 26.Rd2 Rfe8
27.Rxd6 Re1+ 28.Kf2 Rh1
29.Kg3 Nh5+ 30.Kh4 g6 31.Rxd5
Re8 32.Rxa5 Ree1 33.Nc3 Nf4

34.Kg4 Ne6 35.Re5 f5+ 36.Kg3
f4+ 37.Kh4 Kh7 38.Ne4 g5+
39.Kg4 Ng7 40.Nxg5+ hxg5
41.Rxe1 Rxe1 42.Kxg5 Ne6+
43.Kf5 Re2 44.Rxe2 Nxd4+
45.Ke5 Nxe2 46.a4 1-0 Fischer,R-
Petrosian,T/Buenos Aires cm 1971
(46);

B) 4...Nge7 5.Bd3 g6 6.Ne2 Bg7
7.c3 Qd7 8.Bf4 f6 9.0-0 0-0
10.Qd2 e5 11.Bh6 Qd6 12.Rad1
dxe4 13.Bxe4 f5 14.Bxg7 Kxg7
15.Bxc6 Nxc6 16.Nxe5 Nxe5
17.dxe5 Qxe5 18.Nf4! b6 19.Rfe1
Qc5



B1) 20.Nh5+ _____ 1-0 gxf5
(20...Kh8 21.Qh6 gxf5 22.b4)
21.Qg5+ Kf7 (21...Kh8
22.Re7) 22.b4;

B2) 20.Nh5+!! _____ 1-0 (20) Kocolek-
Livanez corr 1942;

C) 4...Bb4 5.Bd3 Nf6

C1) 6.Bg5 _____ b6 7.0-0 Bxc3
8.bxc3 dxe4 9.Bxe4 Qd6
10.Bxc6+! Qxc6 11.Ne5! Qe4
(11...Qxc3 12.Re1 Bb7 13.Re3
Qb4 14.c4=) 12.f3 Qf5 13.Bc1!
Nd5 14.Re1!! Nxc3 15.Qd2

Nd5 16.c4 Ne7 17.Ba3! Bd7 (17...Ng6 18.Qb4+-) 18.Rad1 Rd8 19.Bxe7 Kxe7 20.d5! f6 21.d6+ cxd6 22.Qxd6+ Ke8 23.Nc6 Qc5+ 24.Qxc5 bxc5 25.Rxe6+! 1-0 (25) Steiner,D-Walsh,A Corr-CCLA 1947 OM Corr 202003 [Purdy/Steiner];

C2) 6.e5 Ne4 7.Bd2 Nxd2 8.Qxd2 h6 (8...f6 9.a3 Be7 10.exf6 Bxf6 11.Bb5 0-0 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.0-0 c5 14.dxc5 c6 15.Rfe1 Re8 16.Ne5 d4 17.Na2 a5 18.c4 dxc3 19.Qxc3 Qd5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Shirov,A-Rozentalis,E/Tilburg 1993/1/2-1/2 (34)' 20.b4 Rd8 21.bxa5 Qd2 22.Qxd2 Rxd2 23.Nb4 Shirov,A-Rozentalis,E/Tilburg 1993/1/2-1/2 (34)) 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe3 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Na5 12.Nd2 b6 13.f4 Qe7 14.Rf3 c5 15.Rg3 f5 16.exf6 Qxf6 17.Rf1 cxd4 18.cxd4 Nc6 Blackburne,J-Mason,J/New York Congress 1889/1-0 (32)]

4...f6

[4...b6 5.f4 Bb7 6.Nf3 Qd7 7.a3 Nh6 8.Bb5 f5 9.Bd2 Be7 10.h3 a6 11.Bd3 a5 12.Be3 Ba6 13.Bxa6 Rxa6 14.Qd3 Ra8 15.b3 Na7 16.0-0 0-0 17.Rfd1 b5 18.a4 b4 Karpov,A-Agdestein,S/Gjovik m 1991/1/2-1/2 (88)]

95

4.Be3 Nimzowitsch, A.: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'last book move' 4...e5 [%draw arrow,b1,c3,green] Nimzowitsch' Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: ' ♠' ♠' ♠' 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: ' ♠' ♠' ♠' ' ♠' ch, A.: ' ♠'

[4...e6!? Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '!? '!? '!?' 5.Nf3

A) 5...Nf6 (Δ ... ♗g4) Nimzowitsch, A.: '(Δ ... ♗g4)' 6.h3 e5 (6...Qa5+ 7.c3 e5 8.b4 Qd5 9.b5 exd4 10.cxd4 Ne7 11.Nc3 Qd8 12.Be2 Ned5) 7.dxe5 Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Nd5;

B) 5...Bd7!? _____ Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '!? '!? '!?'

B1) ♠6.Be2 0-0-0 7.0-0 f6!? (7...Nf6 8.c4 Qf5 9.h3 × « Nimzowitsch, A.: 'X «') 8.c4 Qh5 9.Nc3 Qf7;

B2) 6.Nbd2 _____ 0-0-0 7.Bd3 (7.Bc4 Δ 8.♖e2, 0-0-0 Nimzowitsch, A.: 'Δ 8.♖e2, 0-0-0') 7...Nf6 (7...e5?! 8.c4 Qd6 9.d5) 8.0-0 h6 9.c3 g5 [Δ ... ♗g7] Fritz 5.00 (5s):

'Nimzowitsch, A.: '[Δ ... ♗g7]' '[Δ ... ♗g7] Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '[Δ ... ♗g7]'

B2a) ♠10.b4 g4 11.Ne1 Qh5 12.b5 Ne7 (12...Bd6? 13.g3 Ne7 14.c4 -- Δ15.c5) 13.c4 Nf5 14.c5 Nd5∞;

B2b) 10.c4!? _____ Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '!? '!? '!?' 10...Qd6 11.c5 Qe7 12.Nc4 (12.Bb5) 12...Nd5 13.Nfe5 (♠13.b4 Ndx b4 14.Rb1→) 13...Bg7 14.Re1 Nxe5 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '=' '=' '=' (14...Nxe3!? 15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.fxe3 Qd7♞) 15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.dxe5 Bc6♞ Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: ' ♠' ♠' ♠' 17.Qc1 (17.Qe2 f6♞) 17...Nf4 18.Bf1 Nd3 19.Bxd3 Rxd3 20.b4 Qd7 21.Qc4 Rd8 22.a3 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '♞' ♞' ♞' (22.a4 Bxa4 23.c6 Bxc6

24.Rxa7 b5) 22...Ba4
 23.Reb1 Fritz 5.00 (5s): '♠' '♠'
 '♠' (23.c6!? Bxc6 24.Bxa7=)
 23...Bb5 24.Qc2 Fritz 5.00
 (5s): ' - + ' ' - + ' ' - + ' (24.Qg4
 Qd5) 24...Qd5 25.Re1 g4
 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♠ ' ' ♠ ' ' ♠ '
 (Δ25...Bc6!? 26.f3 Qxe5-+)
 26.Qe2 (26.Bxh6? Bc6 27.f3
 gxf3-+) 26...h5 27.a4 Bc4
 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♠ ' ' ♠ ' ' ♠ '
 (27...Bc6!? 28.Qf1 Qxe5) 28.Qc2
 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' - + ? ' ' - + ? ' (Δ28.Rac1) 28...h4
 29.Qe2 Rd4 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ♠ ' ' ♠ ' ' ♠ '
 30.Qb2 Rd3 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' = ' ' = ' (Δ30...h3!? 31.f4
 Rd3) 31.Qe2 Rg8 (31...Qxe5?! 32.Qxg4 Bd5
 33.Qxh4=) 32.Kh1 h3 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Do you see the
 m a t e t h r e a t ? ' 33.Rg1 Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' - + ' ' - + ' ' - + '
 hxx2+ 34.Rxx2 Ra3 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Threatening
 mate... how?' 35.Qe1 Rxa1 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Threatening
 mate: Rxe1' 36.Qxa1 Qf3

B2b1) 37.c6

B2b11) 37...Qxc6?!
 38.Kg1-+ (38.Bxa7??
 Qf3-+);

B2b12) 37...Rd8
 38.cxb7+ Kxb7-+
 (38...Qxb7 39.Bg5 Bd5
 40.Kg1 Bxx2
 41.Bxd8-+);

B2b2) 37.Kg1 Rd8
 Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'The mate
 threat is Rd1' 38.Bd4 Bd5-+
 0-1 (38) Andersen, E -
 Nimzowitsch, A Copenhagen

1923 Chess Praxis
 [Nimzowitsch, A.]
 Nimzowitsch, A.: '0-1 (38)
 Andersen, E. + Nielsen, J. -
 Nimzowitsch, A Copenhagen
 1923 Chess Praxis
 [Nimzowitsch, A.]

5.c4

[5.Nf3=]

5...Qa5+ 6.Bd2 Nb4 [%draw full,b4,
 yellow] [%draw full,d4,green]
 [%draw arrow,c8,f5] [%draw arrow,
 b4,c2,green] 7.Nf3

[7.d5 Bf5 8.a3 Qa6 [%draw arrow,
 a3,b4,green] [%draw arrow,b4,c2]
 [%draw full,a1,green] [%draw full,c2]
 9.Bxb4 Bxb4+ 10.Nd2 Be7
 [%draw full,c4,green] [%draw full,d5,
 green] [%draw full,e1] [%draw full,e7,
 yellow] [%draw full,f1] [%draw full,f5,
 yellow] [%draw full,g1] [%draw full,
 h1] [%draw arrow,e8,c8]]

7...Bf5

4.c3 e5 5.dxe5

[5.Nf3 Bg4]

5...Qxd1+ 6.Kxd1 Nxe5 [%draw full,a8,
 green] [%draw full,c8,green]
 [%draw full,e5,green] [%draw full,f8,
 green] [%draw full,g8,green]
 [%draw full,h8,green]

⁹⁶

4...e5 Black has to strike back in
 the center before he is squeezed
 into submission. 5.Nc3 Attacking
 the queen and Black's reply is
 forced.

[5.dxe5 Qxd1+ 6.Kxd1 Bc5 7.Ke1
 Bf5 8.c3 0-0-0 9.Be2 f6 10.Bf4 fxe5
 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Nf6 13.Nd2
 Bxf2+ 14.Kxf2 Rxd2 15.Bxf6 gxf6
 16.Rhe1 Re8 17.Kf1 Rxe2 18.Rxe2
 Bd3 19.Rae1 Rxb2 20.Kf2 Rxe2+
 21.Rxe2 Bxe2 22.Kxe2 Kd7

0-1 (22) Lawenborg,O-Nimzowitsch,
A Copenhagen, Northern Chess
Federation 1924]

5...Bb4 The only way...Black wants to
keep the queen on d5 even at the
cost of giving up the bishop pair.

6.Bd2 Renewing the threat of attacking
the queen. 6...Bxc3 7.Bxc3
Happy to have got the bishop pair,
Black is doomed to defend against
our mighty bishops for the rest of
the game. 7...e4 Taking on d4
would just unleash the full power of
the dark-squared bishop on c3.

8.Ne5 Threatening the deadly Bc4
targetting the f7-pawn. 8...Nxe5

9.dxe5 We have achieved a stable
advantage thanks to the energetic
play. 9...Ne7 The best move trying
to fight for equality. 10.Qd4
Preparing to play Bc4 or Qa4+ with
slight advantage due to the bishop
pair. Owen His Relatives-
Nimzowitsch Defense Nc6

97 **5.c4** Qh5 [%draw full,g4,yellow]
[%draw full,h5,yellow] [%draw arrow,
h5,f3,green] [%draw arrow,h5,h2,
green] 6.Be2 0-0-0 [%draw full,a1,
green] [%draw full,b1,green]
[%draw full,c1,green] [%draw full,d1,
green] 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nc3

[8.Be3 e5 9.h3 (9.d5 e4
[%draw full,f3,green] [%draw arrow,g4,
e2,green] 10.Nd4 Nxd4
[%draw arrow,h5,e2,green] [%draw
full,e2,green] 11.Bxg4+ Nxg4
[%draw arrow,h5,h2,green] [%draw
arrow,d4,f5,green] [%draw full,d4,
green]) 9...exd4 10.hxg4 Nxg4
[%draw full,a1,green] [%draw full,b1,
green] [%draw full,d1,green] [%draw
full,e2] [%draw full,e3] [%draw full,f1,

green] [%draw full,f3] 11.Bg5 (11.Bf4
d3 [%draw arrow,d3,e2] 12.Bxd3
[%draw arrow,d8,d1] Bd6 13.Bxd6
Rxd6 [%draw arrow,d6,h6] [%draw
arrow,h8,d8] 14.Nh4 [%draw arrow,h5,
h4] [%draw arrow,d3,f5] Kb8 15.g3
Nce5 [%draw full,d3] [%draw arrow,g7,
g5]) 11...f6]

8...Nxd4 9.Nxd4 Bxe2 10.Ncxe2 e5
11.Be3 exd4 12.Nxd4 [%draw arrow,h5,
e5,green] [%draw arrow,c7,c5,
green] Nimzowitsch Defence
5.Be2 0-0-0 [%draw full,d4,yellow]
[%draw arrow,e7,e5,yellow]

98 **5...Qf5** 6.Be2 0-0-0 7.Be3 e5
5...Bxf3 6.Nxd5 Bxd1 7.Nxc7+
Kd7 8.Nxa8 Bxc2 9.Bf4 e5 10.dxe5
Bb4+



The key themes of this position:
rapid development, open lines,
exposed king and giving up material
or development - have little to do
with the ending (pawn majority, rook
on the seventh, active king, etc.)

11.Ke2 ?
[11.Bd2 Bxd2+ 12.Kxd2 Bf5
with about equal material]

11...Nge7 12.Nc7 Nd4+ 13.Ke3 Nef5#
0-1 (13) Anon-Barcza not an
ending: a queenless mi 1934

⁹⁹ **6...Bxf3** Weakening our pawn structure at the cost of the bishop pair. 7.Qxf3 Exchanging the queens to better utilize the power of the bishop pair. 7...Qxf3 8.gxf3 The pawn weakness aren't irrelevant in the fight for the initiative and it will take an eternity for the g8-knight to make its first threat against the f3-pawn. 8...Nd4 This looks like the only move which could challenge us and we need to be vigilant here, this is the reason why I decided to keep it as trainables rather than clickables!

9.Nb5 Fighting 'Fire with Fire!', Not giving Black any time to rest on his laurels. 9...Nxb5 10.Bxb5+ Black is forced to lose his castling and we will reign supreme due to the powerful bishop pair. 15) Owen and His Relatives-Nimzowitsch Defense Nc6

¹⁰⁰ **8.Bxf3** Qe5+ Continuing to walk on a thin line. 9.Be3 Other moves lack the power punch. 9...e6 Attacking the key pawn on d5. 10.0-0 Finishing the final developing and preparing a devilish sacrifice...

10...exd5 This natural move gives us the advantage.

[10...Nf6 11.dxc6 It was this queen sacrifice that almost arises by force that drove me to recommend this line :CC EndBracket CC! Rxd1 12.cxb7+ The pawn on b7 will remain a constant source of worry for Black and even if by some miracle Black manages to

win this pawn, it will end up weakening the king's safety. Hence Black has the difficult choice of letting the pawn stay on b7 with mating threats or trying to get rid of it which ruins his safety net : CC EndBracket CC . Kb8 13.Raxd1 It was very tempting to stop here, but since we do lack the most powerful piece on the board... I decided to continue my analysis for some more moves to make sure that Black has no attacking chances against our king. Bd6 Moves like 13... Bc5 can be met by 14.Rfe1 retaining the advantage. 14.g3 Qf5

Black is going all-in with his attack as slow approaches are doomed to fail. 15.Rd3 A very strong move defending the bishop on f3 with the tactical point of Bxa7+ winning the queen due to a discovered attack. h5 Black is hoping to create some threats along the h-file. 16.Rfd1 It was time to go on the offensive. h4 Otherwise there was no point in playing h5. 17.b4 Black's threats along the h-file are illusionary while our threats along the d-file are real! One of our ideas is to play Bc6 followed by Nb5 leading to a mating attack. Owen His Relatives-Nimzowitsch Defense Nc6]

11.Nxd5 With a big advantage due to the two bishops and 11...Nf6 can be easily met with 12.c4 with a powerful bind. Owen His Relatives-Nimzowitsch Defense Nc6

¹⁰¹ **3...Nh6** is way too provocative. White can simply reply 4.c3 to support d4 or else go for 4.Bxh6 gxh6 5.c3 Bf5 6.Bd3 Qd7 7.Ne2 Rg8 8.Bxf5 Qxf5 9.Ng3 Qg6 10.0-0 when Black does not have much

compensation for his ruined Kingside pawns. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-3... Nh6

102 **4.Ne2?! "More natural would be 4 Nf3. More natural would be 4 Nf3. Nimzowitsch, A.: '!'Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch/Keene: '?!' '?!' Nimzowitsch, A.: '!' '!' '!' '4...e6 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h5 7.Be2 "Nimzowitsch, A.: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'last book move"' 7...Be7?! "Thus White's manouver is justified. But black could have played better, namely : 7...Nb4 8 Na3 c5 9 c3 Nc6 and White's efforts against Black's h-pawn appear to be excessive in view of the serious situation in the center. Thus White's manouver is justified. But black could have played better, namely : 7...Nb4 8 Na3 c5 9 c3 Nc6 and White's efforts against Black's h-pawn appear to be excessive in view of the serious situation in the center. Nimzowitsch, A.: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch/Keene: '?!' '?!' ' ' [**

Nimzowitsch, Aron: 'Thus White's maneuver is justified. But Black could have played better, namely' 7...Nb4! Nimzowitsch, A.: ' Δ "Fritz 5.00 (5s): '!' Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: ' Δ ' Δ " Nimzowitsch/Keene: '!' 8.Na3 c5 9.c3 Nc6 Nimzowitsch, Aron: 'and White's efforts against Black's h-pawn appear to be excessive in view of the serious situation in the center.' 10.Nxh5 Bxh5 11.Bxh5 cxd4 12.cxd4 Bb4+ 13.Kf1 Bxa3 14.bxa3 g6 15.Be2 Rxh4 16.Rxh4 Qxh4 7] 8.Bxh5 Bxh5 9.Nxh5 g6 10.Nf4 Rxh4 11.Rxh4 Bxh4 12.Qd3 Nimzowitsch, Aron: 'Nimzowitsch, A.: 'Preventing

12...Bg5 as then 13 Nxe6 would win. ' ' ' Preventing ' 12...Nge7!! Nimzowitsch, Aron: "Nimzowitsch, A.: '!'Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ± ' Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch/Keene: '!' '!' Nimzowitsch, A.: '!' '!' '!' [12...Bg5? Δ ...Bxf4 Nimzowitsch, Aron: 'as then' Nimzowitsch, A.: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' Δ ...Bxf4" 13.Nxe6! Nimzowitsch, Aron: 'would win.' Nimzowitsch, A.: '+-'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '!' Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '+-' '+-' Nimzowitsch/Keene: '!' fxe6 14.Qxg6+-] [12...Qd7 13.Nd2±] 13.g3 Nf5 [13...Bg5 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Bxg5] 14.gxh4 [14.c3 Bg5] 14...Nfxd4 Δ 15...Nb4 16.Qxd4 Nxc2+ and 15...Nxe5 16.Qxd4 Nf3+"There is now a double threat, namely 14...Nb4 15 Qxb4 Nxc2+ and 14...Nxe5 15 Qxd4 Nf3+ a neat two-fold turn. There is now a double threat, namely 14...Nb4 15 Qxb4 Nxc2+ and 14...Nxe5 15 Qxd4 Nf3+ a neat two-fold turn. Nimzowitsch, A.: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch/Keene: ' Δ 15...Nb4 16.Qxd4 Nxc2+ and 15...Nxe5 16.Qxd4 Nf3+" ' 15.Na3 [15.-- Nb4 (and 15...Nxe5 16.Qxd4 Nf3+ a neat two-fold turn.) 16.Qxd4 Nxc2+] [15.Be3 Nimzowitsch/Keene: 'Nimzowitsch, A.' Nb4 (15...Nxe5 16.Qxd4 Nf3+) 16.Qxd4 Nxc2+] 15...Qxh4 "Simpler would be 15...Nxe5 16 Qh3 Ndf3+ 17 Kf1 Qxh4 with a promising endgame, but black wished to avoid the exchange of queens. Simpler would be 15...Nxe5 16 Qh3 Ndf3+ 17 Kf1 Qxh4

with a promising endgame, but black wished to avoid the exchange of queens. Nimzowitsch, A.: '!? "Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: '!? '!'?"

[Nimzowitsch,Aron: 'Simpler would be'
15...Nxe5 16.Qh3 Ndf3+ 17.Kf1
Qxh4 Nimzowitsch,Aron: 'with a
promising'Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch,
A.: '𐌹' '𐌹'" ending, but Black wished
to avoid the exchange of Queens.'
Nimzowitsch, A.: '𐌹']

16.Qh3 Nimzowitsch,Aron:'Nimzowitsch,
A.: 'In order to force the exchange.'
'(In order to force the exchange.)'

16...Qg5?! Nimzowitsch, Aron: "With the idea"
 "With the idea of Qh8+ Kd7 18 Qxa8 Qg1+ 19 Kd2 Qxf2+ 20 Kc3 Nb3!! (after the game was over, they found the dual 20...Nf3). Nevertheless 16...Qxh3 was necessary. With the idea of Qh8+ Kd7 18 Qxa8 Qg1+ 19 Kd2 Qxf2+ 20 Kc3 Nb3!! (after the game was over, they found the dual 20...Nf3). Nevertheless 16...Qxh3 was necessary. Nimzowitsch, A.:
 '?!' Fritz 5.00 (5s): ' ±' Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch/Keene: '?!'
 Nimzowitsch, A.: '?!' '?!' "'

[16...Qxh3 Nimzowitsch, A.: 'Δ"Fritz 5.00 (5s): '!'?' Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch, A.: ' Δ' 'Δ"' 17.Nxh3 Nxe5 Nimzowitsch, A.: '= ' 18.Bf4 Nef3+ Δ ...e5]

17.Be3? "For now 17 Nd3 could have been played to White's advantage, e.g. : 17...Qg1+ 18 Kd2 Nxe5 19 Nxe5 Qxf2+ which would be insufficient (as would also be the other possible continuation 17 Nd3 Qg1+ 18 Kd2 Kd7 19 Nc5+ (not 19 c3 because of ...Rh8 20 Qxh8 Qg5+

with perpetual check) 19...Ke7 20 Qh4+ Ke8 (or 20...g5 21 Qg3) 21 Qh8+ Ke7 22 Qf6+ and 23 c3. For now 17 Nd3 could have been played to White's advantage, e.g. : 17...Qg1+ 18 Kd2 Nxe5 19 Nxe5 Qxf2+ which would be insufficient (as would also be the other possible continuation 17 Nd3 Qg1+ 18 Kd2 Kd7 19 Nc5+ (not 19 c3 because of ...Rh8 20 Qxh8 Qg5+ with perpetual check) 19...Ke7 20 Qh4+ Ke8 (or 20...g5 21 Qg3) 21 Qh8+ Ke7 22 Qf6+ and 23 c3. Nimzowitsch, A.: 'Fritz 5.00 (5s): '=' Fritz 5.00 (5s): 'Nimzowitsch/Keene: '? '2''' '1

[17.Qh8+ Kd7 18.Qxa8 Qg1+
19.Kd2 Qxf2+ 20.Kc3 (20.Kd3
Nxe5+ 21.Kc3 Qe1+ 22.Bd2 Qxa1
23.Qxb7#) 20...Nb3! Nimzowitsch,
Aron: '!!!' Nimzowitsch,Aron:
'Nevertheless 16...'Nimzowitsch/
Keene: '!' Nimzowitsch/Keene:
'Nimzowitsch, A.: '-+!!'" Qxh3 was
necessary.' Nimzowitsch, A.: '-+!!'
(Nimzowitsch,Aron: 'after the game
they found the dual' 20...Nf3
Nimzowitsch, A.: '-+"Fritz 5.00 (5s):
'Nimzowitsch, A.: '-+' '-+" 21.Qd8+
Kxd8 22.Nxe6+ fxe6 23.Bg5+ Nxe5
24.Rd1 Ne4+ 25.Kb3 Qb6+ 26.Nb5
Qxb5+ 27.Ka3 Qb4#)

A) 21.cxb3 Qd4+ 22.Kc2 Nb4+
23.Kb1 Qe4+;

B) 21.Nd3 Qd4+ 22.Kxb3 Na5#:

C) 21.Nb5 Qe1+ 22.Kd3 (22.Bd2 Qxd2+ 23.Kxb3 Qb4#) 22...Nc5#;

D) 21.Kxb3 Qb6+ 22.Nb5
(22.Kc3 Qd4+ 23.Kb3 Qb4#)
22...Qxb5+ 23.Kc3 Qc4+ 24.Kd2
Qxf4+ 25.Kd3 (25.Ke1 Qe4+
26.Kf2 Nd4 27.Bh6 Qf3+ 28.Kg1

12.-- f6 A.Alekhine]
 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Bg2 Qe7 12.Bxe4!?
 [12.c3! 0-0-0 13.Bxe4 Nxe5 14.Qa4
 A.Alekhine]
 12...Nxe5 13.g5!
 [13.dxe5 Qb4+]
 13...Nc4!
 [13...Bxg5 14.Rxg5!±]
 14.gxh6 Nxe3 15.hxg7?!
 [15.Qe2! g5 16.Nh5± A.Alekhine]
 15...Bxf2+! 16.Ke2 Rg8 17.Qd3 Bxg1
 18.Qb5+ c6! 19.Bxc6+ Kd8 20.Bxb7
 [20.Rxg1 Nf5 21.Qa5+ Qc7±
 T.Harding]
 20...Nxc2
 [20...Rb8!? H.Myers]
 21.Qa5+ Qc7 22.Nxe6+! fxe6 23.Qg5+
 Qe7 24.Qa5+ ½-½ (24) Rojahn,E-
 Czerniak,M Buenos Aires 1939
 Nimzowitsch Defence [RR]
4.a3 last book move Nimzowitsch,
 Aron: '(To be able to play Nc3.)'
 4...e6 5.Nc3 h5 Nimzowitsch,Aron:
 '(Early preventive play against
 White's advance f4 and g4.)' 6.Be3
 g6 7.f4 Nh6 8.Nf3 Ng4 Nimzowitsch,
 Aron: '(In order to provoke h3.)'
 9.Bg1 h4 10.h3 Nh6 11.Be3 Be7
 12.Qd2 a6 Nimzowitsch,Aron: '(Making
 a show of preparing for ...b5 should
 White castle on the Queenside.)'
 13.0-0-0 Rb8
 [The reply 13...b5 would only have
 blocked the position after 14.Na2
 (not 14.Nxb5 because of 0-0 and
 15.-- Rb8) 14...Rb8 15.b4
 and Black's c5 would have remained
 weak. The discreetly threatening play
 in the text has an immediate effect.)]
 14.Na2 Be4 Nimzowitsch,Aron: '(Your
 eye on the wings, your mind on the
 center. That is the deepest meaning
 of positional play.)' 15.Ne1 Nf5

16.Kb1±
 [16.Bf2 Rc8=]
 16...Ng3 17.Rg1 Nxf1 18.Rxf1 Rg8
 Nimzowitsch,Aron: '(With the object
 of exerting pressure against the
 backward g-pawn by opening the g-
 file.)' 19.Ka1 Kd7 Nimzowitsch,
 Aron: '(In order to establish
 communication between the major
 pieces.)' 20.Rg1 Kc8 Nimzowitsch,
 Aron: '(The King makes for b7.)'
 21.Nc1 b6 Nimzowitsch,Aron: '(Now
 there is threatened Na5-c4. The
 light squares are clearly difficult to
 defend.)' 22.b4
 [22.Nb3 Qd7=]
 22...a5 23.c3 axb4 24.cxb4±
 [24.axb4!? Ra8+ 25.Na2±]
 24...Ra8 25.Kb2 Kb7±
 [Nimzowitsch,Aron: 'He could have
 played' ♠25...Rxa3! Nimzowitsch,
 Aron: 'but he wants to see all his
 positional chances mature (...g5)
 before hitting out. Now ...Rxa3 is a
 powerful threat.' 26.Kxa3 Bxb4+
 27.Qxb4 Nxb4 28.Kxb4 Qe7+
 29.Kb3 c5±]
 26.Na2 g5 27.fxg5 Bxg5 28.g4 hxg3
 29.Rxg3 Bxe3 30.Rxe3
 [≤30.Qxe3 Qh4 31.Rxg8 Rxg8±]
 30...Qh4 Nimzowitsch,Aron: '(Black has
 captured the g-file, and White is
 weak at d4 and h3.)' 31.Qc3±
 [31.Rc1 Rg3=]
 31...Na7 32.Rc1
 [Here 32.a4 is better, but Black has
 the superior game in any event.)]
 32...Qf2+ 33.Kb3??-+
 [33.Ka1 Nb5 34.Qc6+ Kb8 35.Rec3
 Nxc3 36.Qxc3-+]
 33...Nb5 Do you see the mate threat?
 34.Qc6+ Kb8 35.Qxb5 Qxe3+
 0-1 (35) Nilsson,C-Nimzowitsch,A

(2550) Eskilstuna 1921 [Fritz 5.00 (5s)] Nimzowitsch, Aron: 'White resigns. In this game the process of reasoning is disclosed by the moves 12...a6, 13...Rb8 and 14. Na2, with 14...Be4. With 12...a6 and 13...Rb8 Black adopted a threatening attitude. Upon this White felt inclined to take counter measures (14.Na2) which, however, had a decentralizing effect. With 14...Be4 White's decentralization was duly registered and the ball set in motion. The far reaching effect of the sober threat of a flank attack must cause surprise. The explanation seems to be that the balance was already disturbed (therefore previous to 12...a6) in favor of the second player! He was clearly strong on the light squares. The sequence of moves, 12...a6 etc., only brought out a latent situation into actuality. A simultaneous game played logically from beginning to end. We would refer to move 20...g5 in Game No. 71 and to the excellent game Samisch-Alekhine, Dresden, 1926.'

[35...Qxe3+ 36.Rc3 Qxe1-+]

¹⁰³ **5...a6** 6.Bd3 Bxd3 7.Qxd3 e6= 8.c3 Be7 9.0-0 Nh6 10.Bxh6?! gxf6 11.b4 Na7 12.a4 c6 13.Nbd2 Nc8 14.Rfb1 [14.Nb3] 14...Nb6 15.Qe3 Bf8 16.h3 Bg7 17.Nh2 Qe7 18.Kh1 Qg5?! 19.f4± Qd8 20.Ng4 Qh4 21.Rf1 h5 22.Nf2 [22.Qf2 Qxf2 23.Nxf2±] 22...f5? 23.exf6 Qxf6 24.Nd3! 0-0 25.Nc5! [25.Rae1? Nxa4]

25...Bh6? [25...Rfe8 26.a5] [Δ25...Rf7] 26.a5! Nc4 27.Nxc4 dxc4 28.Qxe6+ [Δ28.Nxe6 Rfe8 29.Qg3+ Kh8 30.f5+-] 28...Qxe6 29.Nxe6 Rf5 30.g4 hxg4 31.hxg4 Rf6 32.f5 Bd2 33.Rf3 Re8 34.Raf1 Bxc3 35.g5 Rf7 36.Kg2 Bd2 37.Rg3 c3 38.g6 Rf6 39.gxh7+ Kh8 40.Nf4 c2 41.Ng6+ Rxg6 42.fxg6 c1Q 43.Rf8+ Rxf8 44.g7+ Kxh7 45.gxf8Q Bg5 46.Qf5+ Kh8 47.Qxg5 1-0 (47) Mazzoni, G-Dollstadt, J Marseille 1954 EXT 2009 [ChessBase II]

¹⁰⁴ **7.Be2** 0-0-0=

¹⁰⁵ **8.c3** Bg4 9.Be3 Ne7 10.Nbd2 Nf5 11.Rc1 b5 12.Nb3 a5 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 a4 15.Nd2 h5± [15...Be7 16.Qh5=] 16.c4= Keene: '!' [16.Bg5 b4±] 16...bxc4 17.Rxc4 [17.Nxc4 Nh4 18.Qg3 Nf5=] 17...Qd7± [17...Qb6!? 18.Rc2 Be7=] 18.Rc2 Bb4 19.Rfc1 The backward pawn on c7 becomes a target 19...Ba5 20.g3 Bb6 21.Nc4 Bxd4 22.Nd6+??-+ [Δ22.Rd1 Nxe3 23.fxe3±] 22...cxd6 23.Rc7 Bxe3 24.Rxd7 Bxc1 [24...Kxd7 25.fxe3 Rac8 26.Rxc8 Rxc8 27.Qxh5 Rc1+ 28.Kg2±] 25.Rc7 Bxb2 26.Qe2 Bxe5 [Δ26...Rb8!? 27.exd6 0-0-+] 27.Qb5+ Kf8 28.Qd7 Threatening mate... how? 28...Nh6??= [Δ28...Kg8 29.Qxf7+ Kh7 30.Qxh5+ Nh6-+] 29.Rc8+ Rxc8 30.Qxc8+ Ke7 31.Qxh8

a3 **Keene: '!' 32.Qb8 Bb2 33.Qc7+ Kf6 34.Qxd6 g6**
 [34...Nf5 35.Qf8±]
 35.Qf4+ Kg7 36.g4 hxg4 37.hxg4 Ng8
 38.g5 Ne7 39.Kf1 Nf5 40.Qf3±
 [40.Qb4 Nd4±]
 40...Nd6 41.Ke2 **Keene: '?'**
 [41.Qd1 Ne4±]
 41...Ne4 **Keene: '!' 42.Qf4 Nc3+**
Black gets in control 43.Kd3 Nxa2
The passed pawn on a3 quickly
leads to threats 44.Kc2 Nc1
 45.Qf3 d4 **Keene: '?'**
 [45...Kg8!]
 46.Qf6+ Kg8 47.Qd8+ Kh7 48.Qf8??-+
 [♠48.Qd6̄]
 48...d3+ 49.Kd1
 [49.Kb1 d2 50.Kc2 d1Q+ 51.Kxd1
 a2 52.Qxf7+ Bg7 53.Qxe6 a1Q
 54.Qh3+ Kg8 55.Qc8+ Bf8 56.Qe6+
 Kh7 57.Qd7+ Qg7 58.Qh3+ Kg8
 59.Kxc1 Qc7+ 60.Kd1 Qd8+ 61.Ke2
 Qxg5 62.Qb3+ Kg7 63.Qc3+ Qf6-+]
 49...a2 50.Qxf7+ Bg7! 51.Qxe6
Keene: '!' 51...a1Q Threatening
mate: Nb3 52.Qh3+ Kg8
 53.Qe6+?
 [53.Qc8+ Bf8 54.Qe6+ Kh7
 (54...Kg7 55.Qd7+ Kh8 56.Qh3+=)
 55.Qd7+ Qg7 56.Qh3+ Kg8
 57.Qe6+ Qf7 58.Qxf7+ Kxf7
 59.Kxc1-+]
 53...Kf8 54.Qd6+ Ke8 55.Qxg6+
 [55.Qe6+ Kd8 56.Qd6+ Kc8
 57.Qc6+ Kb8 58.Qb6+ Ka8 59.Qc6+
 Ka7 60.Qxc1 Qxc1+ 61.Kxc1
 Bd4-+]
 55...Ke7 56.Qe4+ Qe5
 [56...Be5 57.Qb7+ Ke6 58.Qc6+
 Kf5 59.Qc8+ Kg6 60.Qe6+ Kxg5
 61.Qg8+ Kf6 62.Qf8+ Ke6 63.Qc8+
 Kd6 64.Qd8+ Kc5 65.Qe7+ Bd6
 66.Qg5+ Kb6 67.Kd2 Nb3+ 68.Kxd3

Qb1+ 69.Kc3 Bb4+ 70.Kxb4 Nd2+
 71.Kc3 Ne4+ 72.Kd4 Nxg5
 73.Ke5-+]
 57.Qxe5+ Bxe5 58.Kxc1 Bf4+
 0-1 (58) Siebke-Nimzowitsch,A
 (2550) NO 1925 [Fritz 5.00 (5s)]
 [58...Bf4+ 59.Kb2 Bxg5-+]

¹⁰⁶ **4...f6 4...Qd7** Can be played by
 Black, when we should respond
 with 5.Be2± The play is likely to
 transpose to the 4... f6-line. 5.f4
 Maintaining a strong center. 5...e6
 [5...Be4!? **nebst f5**]

6.Nf3
 [6.Ne2 Nh6 7.Ng3 fxe5 8.fxe5 Qh4
 9.Qh5+ Qxh5 10.Nxh5 g6!? 11.Ng3
 (11.Nf6+ Kf7 **nebst ♗g8**) 11...Bg7
 12.Nd2 0-0 13.Nf3 Nd8 14.h3 Bc2
 15.Be3 Nf5 (♠15...Ba4) 16.Nxf5
 Bxf5 (♠16...exf5 **nebst h6 und ♗e6**)
 17.Be2 c5 18.0-0 (18.dxc5? Nc6
 19.Bd4 Be4̄) 18...Nc6 19.Rac1 h5
 20.Nd2 cxd4 21.cxd4 Nb4 22.Rc7!
 b6 (22...Nxa2? 23.g4 hxg4 24.hxg4
 Be4 25.Nxe4 dxe4 26.Bc4 Rxf1+
 27.Kxf1+-; 22...Nc2?! 23.Rxf5 Nxe3
 24.Rg5± Kh7 25.Bxh5!) 23.a3 Bd3
 24.Rxf8+ Bxf8 25.Bd1 Na6 26.Rc3
 Bb5 27.Nf3 Be7 28.Bc2 Kf7
 29.Ng5+ Bxg5 30.Bxg5+- Be8
 31.Bf6 Kg8 32.Kf2 (≤32.Bd3 b5
 33.a4 Rb8 34.axb5 Nb4!) 32...Kh7
 33.Ke3 Bd7 34.Kf4 Kh6 35.g4! Rc8
 36.Rxc8 Bxc8 37.g5+?? (37.gxh5
 hätte gewonnen) 37...Kh7 38.Ba4
 Nb8 Die ganze Stellung ist so
 blockiert, daß es für Weiß kein
 Durchkommen mehr gibt. 39.Ke3 Bd7
 40.Bc2 Nc6 41.b4 b5 42.Kd3
 ½-½ (42) Asztalos,L-Kostic,B Bled
 1931 Tournaments [Fruth]]
 6...Be7 **Black's best bet is to try to castle**

as soon as possible, not wasting anytime with Qd7.

[6...Qd7 7.Bd3 Be4 8.Qe2 (8.Bxe4 dxe4 9.Nfd2 f5 [%draw full,e4,green] [%draw full,e6,green] [%draw full,f5,green] [%draw arrow,e6,f5] [%draw arrow,f5,e4] [%draw arrow,e8,c8,green] [%draw arrow,h7,h6,yellow] [%draw arrow,g7,g5,yellow]) 8...f5 [%draw full,e4,yellow] 9.Be3 Nh6 10.Nbd2 Be7 11.h3 [%draw arrow,h6,g4,yellow] Nf7 [%draw arrow,h7,h6,yellow] [%draw arrow,g7,g5,yellow] [%draw arrow,e1,c1,yellow] [%draw full,e1,yellow] 12.0-0 h6 13.b4 g5 [%draw arrow,e8,c8,yellow] 14.Nb3 Rg8 [%draw arrow,g8,g2,yellow] [%draw arrow,g5,f4,yellow] 15.Nc5 Bxc5 16.bxc5 gxf4 17.Bxf4 Ng5 [%draw full,e4,yellow] [%draw full,g8] [%draw arrow,e4,g2,green] [%draw arrow,g8,g1,green] [%draw arrow,e8,f7,green] [%draw arrow,g8,g7,yellow] [%draw arrow,a8,g8,yellow] 18.Kh2 Bxd3 19.Qxd3 Ne4 20.Rab1 b6 [%draw arrow,f4,h6,yellow] [%draw arrow,h8,h2,yellow] [%draw full,g8,green]]

7.Be2 Our moves remain the same.

Develop our pieces, then expand on the queenside. 7...Nh6 8.0-0 0-0

9.exf6 Is an interesting way to proceed.

There was nothing wrong with 9. Nbd2 of course. After the text move, we may attack the pawn on e6 in the future, while we could also someday jump to the e5-square. 9...Bxf6 10.Nbd2 a5 Makes more sense if you ask me, preventing our thematic pawn launch, while grabbing space. 10... Qe8!? Was seen in a couple of Correspondence games, where

Black managed to score half a point in both. 11.Ne1 White re-routes the knight from f3 to d3, and aims to put the d2-knight on the now vacant f3 square. 11...b6 Black would like to play c5 at some point. He also stops our knight from jumping to c5. 12.Nd3 Nd8 Black's best bet. The knight doesn't do much on c6, so it will have a better function on the b7-square, where it supports the c5-break. It can also move to d6 when it can eventually move to e4. Note also that 12...Nf7 was poor do to 13.g4! followed by f5 . 13.Nf3 Be7 Black prepares for c5. 14.h3 Our way to make progress is to grab space with g4. 14...Nh7 15. g4 Bg6 So far, we have followed Cleto,D - Latypov,M ICCF email 2017, when my engine shows me that 16.a4! Is the most precise way to continue. 16...a5 17.Be3± White has better prospects in the dynamic middlegame. 11.a4 b6 Black plays similarly to the previous note. 12.h3 Again, if we want to achieve something we should limit Black's pieces by playing g4 at some point. 12...Be7 13.g4 Bg6 14.Qe1 The queen will be well placed on g3. 14...Bd6 14...Rxf4 was met by 15.Bb5 , when the pawn on e6 falls. 15.Ne5 White has a comfortable spacious position. 15...Nxe5 16.dxe5 The right way to capture. 16.fxe5 allows Rxf1! when our initiative is fading away like merchandise on Black Friday. 16...Bc5+ 17.Kh2 Nf7 18.Qg3 White's pawn majority on the kingside gives him a promising position. Black's pieces aren't

ideally placed either, especially the poor knight on f7. White's ideas contain a potential f5-break or h4-h5 break or Nb3 followed by Be3 to trade the dark squared bishops. Indeed, White eventually won in the strong correspondence battle Romm,M - Stoeckert,M ICCF email 2019, a game I highly suggest that you check out. 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1...2...d5 (3...Bf5 2)

4...g6 Une nouveauté assez douteuse

5.Ne2 Qd7 6.Na3 h5 7.h3 Nh6 8.Nc2 Bg7 9.Ne3 0-0-0 10.Nxf5 Nxf5 11.Nf4 e6

[11...Bh6! ?]

12.Bb5 a6 13.Ba4 Rdg8 14.Qe2 Bf8 15.Bd2 Kd8 16.Bxc6 Qxc6 17.g3 Be7 18.h4 Kd7 19.Nh3 Qb5 20.Bg5 Ra8 21.Bxe7 Qxe2+ 22.Kxe2 Kxe7= 23.Nf4 Rhc8

[23...c5 24.dxc5 Rhc8 25.b4 b6 26.Nd3]

24.b4 b6

[24...a5 25.a3]

25.Nd3 c6

[25...a5 26.a3 Ra7 27.Kd2 axb4 28.axb4 Rca8]

26.Rhb1 Kd7 27.a4 Kc7 28.a5 b5 29.Rh1 Rg8 30.Rag1 Rh8 31.Nc5 Ra7 32.Kf3 Raa8 33.Kf4 Kd8 34.Rg2 Ke7 35.Rgh2 Ng7 36.Ra1 Nf5 37.Rah1 Ng7 38.Rb1 Nf5 39.Rc1 Ng7 40.Rb1 Nf5 41.Rd1 Ng7 42.Re1 Nf5 43.Rf1 Ng7 44.Ra1 Nf5 45.f3 Ng7 46.Rah1 Rh7 47.g4 Ra7 48.Rg2 Rh8 49.Ke3 Rh7

½-½ (49) Leoni,A-Dollstadt,J Toulouse 1955 EXT 2009 [Picard/Primel,D]

4...Qd7

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5.Be2 This move is played very seldom. The point is that we aim to

play similarly to lines we've already seen. f4-Nf3-Nbd2 etc. 5...f6

[5...Nge7 Has been played before, but it's inaccurate. 6.Nd2 The best continuation. 6.f4?! is too hasty, as Black can play 6...Bg6 , among other moves when Nf5 will follow suit - justifying Nge7 . f6 Will of course be met by 7.f4 As it is vital that we maintain our strong center. Ng6 8.g3 Guarding the pawn on f4. fxe5 9.fxe5 Be7 10.h4 A strong move as we want to remove Black's knight on g6. 0-0 11.Ndf3 The best move by a long shot. We want to open the diagonal for our bishop on c1, while we also want to trade Black's strong bishop on f5 with Bd3. The knight on g1 can head to h3 instead, where it can potentially jump to f4. Qd7 12.Nh3 Nd8 Black can't do much about our plan so he also tries to improve his pieces. Removing the knight from the c6-square gives Black the opportunity of playing c5, fighting our center. 13.h5 It's time! Nh8 14.Bd3 We keep going with our plan of trading bishops. If Black carries on with 14...c5 for example, we can take on f5 followed by g4 and O-O. Our king will be perfectly safe although we have expanded a lot on the kingside. a6 Is an engine move, when Black aims for capturing on d3 followed by Qb5. Very subtle, indeed. 14...Bxd3? Leaves Black's king very vulnerable after 15.Qxd3 15...h6 16.g4+- White's attack is already decisive according to Stockfish 13. 15.g4 A funky move. Bxd3 15...Bxg4 is met by 16.Bxh7! of course. 16.Qxd3 Qb5 Black has achieved his goal, but the resulting endgame looks pretty bad. 17.Qxb5

axb5 18.Ke2 White's extra space makes the position clearly better. 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1..-2...d5 (3... Bf5 4)]

6.f4 g5 I found only one game with this move, and it's not surprising that it was a correspondence game. Black goes for direct counterplay and dismantles our center. The lines that occur from here are unbelievably complicated. Black is constantly on the verge of losing, but somehow somehow there are an absurd amount of resources for Black. Although I was left rather irritated when I discovered that the game fizzles into a draw in the end, it doesn't really matter. For a human player there is just too much to remember, making the task for Black practically impossible. Buckle up, the positions coming up are wild!

[6...Qd7 Was seen in a game where Black wanted to quickly castle queenside. 6...Nge7 I think this is Black's most likely response, when play is likely to transpose to 5... Nge7 after 7.Nd2 . 7.Nf3 0-0-0 It's once again too dangerous to castle queenside. Black has other moves when play will be similar to positions we've already seen. 8.b4 h5 Black tries to run with his h-pawn, but it doesn't do anything. 9.0-0 h4 10.Nbd2 We should just mind our own business. 10.h3? happened in Zieher, H - Plueg, A Germany 2014, when Black was suddenly back in the game after Qe8 , with Qg6 to follow. h3 11.g3 Black hasn't achieved anything significant. Nh6 12.a4 Our attack plays itself. fxe5 13.fxe5 Be7 14.a5

Forward! Rdf8 15.b5 Nd8 16.Ba3 Bxa3 17.Rxa3 The black bishop that controls the c5-square is no more, so or knight can freely reach the square from b3. Black is busted as he has no counterplay. 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1..-2...d5 (3...Bf5 6)]

7.Bh5+ Kd7 Black's best bet is to simply move the king away. It's indeed true that the king could become a target on d7, but it's not so easy for us to attack it yet. If Black has time, he will take on f4 and e5 when our initiative disappears.

[7...Bg6 This move is inaccurate, but the resulting positions are still tricky. 8.Nh3 gxf4 9.Nxf4 Black is in huge trouble here, unless he finds the pawn sacrifice fxe5 10.Bxg6+ hxg6 11.Nxg6 Rh7 12.dxe5 We should grab the pawn. Note that 12.Nxf8? loses to 12...Qh4! when Black all of a sudden takes over. Rg7 12...Kd7!? Is a fancy move, with the idea of capturing with the queen on f8 if we take the bishop. However, we can utilize the poor placement of the king with the move 13.c4! We should open the position as much as possible. 13...Nge7 14.cxd5! Striking while the iron is hot. We can't allow Black to consolidate. 14...Nxg6 15.dxc6+ Ke8 16.Qxd8+ Rxd8 17.cxb7+- Black has reached an endgame which is lost. 12...Bc5!? Is a dangerous move which requires us to play accurately. 13.b4! The reason why this move is strong is that Black has to move the bishop to b6, where he will lose control of the f8-square. 13... Bb6 14.Rf1! Kd7 The only way to dodge the threat of Rf8. 15.Qd3 Rg7 16.b5 Another good move, removing

the knight from the c6-square. 16... Na5 17.g3 Taking control of the important f4 and h4 squares, and preparing to grab material with Rf8. 17...Qe8 Black couldn't prevent us from playing Rf8 anyway. 18.Rf8 Qxf8 19.Nxf8+ Rxf8 20.Nd2! It's crucial to prevent Nc4. 20...Rf5 21.c4! Opening the diagonal for the bishop. 21...Rxe5+ 22.Kd1 Re3 23.Qf1 Ne7 And here, 24.c5 Wins material. 24...Bxc5 25.Nb3+- Black has some pawns, but White will win with correct play. 12...Nge7?! Doesn't seem like a challenging move, as we get a nice initiative after 13.Nxf8 Kxf8 14.O-O+ ↑ We are a pawn up and Black's king is weak. 13.Qd3 The best way to defend the knight. Kd7 Once again we see this king move, allowing a queen capture on f8. 14.g3 A great consolidating move as we can place the bishop on f4. Nge7 Black aims to sacrifice an exchange for a dangerous initiative. We must tread carefully. 14...Qe8? Allows us to carry out our plan after 15.Nxf8+ Qxf8 16.Bf4 Nge7 17.Nd2+- Black has no compensation for the missing pawn. 15.Nxf8+ Qxf8 16.Bh6 We must grab the material. Nxe5 17.Qb5+ Every tempo is vital, so we should give this check. N7c6 18.Nd2 We need some pieces around our king before we take the rook. 18.Bxg7? would have allowed 18...Qf3! when my engine shows me that the position is a draw. Nf3+ 19.Kd1 The best square for the king. Nfe5 Is the best move according to the engine, when our queen should join the defense. 19...Nxd2 Leads to a fun line where our king ends up on a4.

20.Bxg7 Qxg7 21.Kxd2 Qg5+ 22.Kc2 Qf5+ 23.Kb3 We escape Black's checks. 23...a6 24.Qe2! The only move, but good enough to win. 24...Na5+ 25.Ka4! It's hilarious that Black has nothing against our king on a4. 25...b6 25...d4 looks scary, but we have everything under control after 26.Rad1 . 26.Rhf1 Qg6 27.Rf4 Planning to double the rook in the f-file. 27...Qe8 Is one last attempt to create something, when the refutation is 28.Re1! Now, things works out as 28...Kc8+ 29.Ka3 Nc4+ Is met by 30.Rxc4+- Black doesn't have enough pawns left to save the game. 20.Qe2 Qf6 21.Bxg7 Qxg7 22.Rf1 Black has compensation due to our lack of coordination, but our extra material yields us the upper hand. One plan forward to secure our king is to play Rc1-Rc2-Kc1-Kb1. 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1..-2...d5 (3...Bf5 8)]

8.fxg5 The best move is to play concretely and grab the pawn. 8...fxe5 9.Nf3 Not giving Black any time to rest, attacking the pawn on e5. Here Black has to be careful, as we can often play Nh4 and get rid of the defending piece on f5. c4 is also an idea in the air, opening up the file against Black's monarch. 9...h6 A star move. Black doesn't waste time and goes for our throat instantly. The idea is simple, Black wants to open the h-file when his play could become overwhelming.

[9...Nge7 Black forgets about the pawn on e5 and goes for straightforward counterplay instead. Not a bad strategy! 10.O-O Safety first. Ng6 Defending e5 and

getting ready to develop the f8-bishop. 10...h6!? This move is once again strong, just not as strong as in the main line. 11.c4! We need to attack with great velocity, otherwise Black's counterplay will be very strong. 11...dxc4 The best move is to take immediately. Note that 11...hxg5 is met by 12.g4! 12.Nxe5+ Nxe5 13.dxe5+ Bd3 In the spirit of the variation, avoiding a trade of queens for the time being. 13...Kc8 14.Qxd8+ Kxd8 15.Be2± White keeps the upper hand in the endgame due to the better coordination and safer king. 14.Be2 Black will lose the pawn on d3 as seen in the variation 14...Kc8 15.Bxd3 cxd3 16.Rf3 Black will win the pawn on e5 in return, but opening the position is just to our advantage. 16...Qd4+ 17.Kh1 Nc6 18.Rxd3 Qxe5 19.gxh6 Bxh6 20.Bxh6 Rxh6 21.h3± This position looks close to lost for Black, as his king is in severe danger. It doesn't help either that the rook on a8 is out of the game for the time being, and that the pawn on e6 is rather weak. 11.dxe5 The strategy remains the same - let's open the position as much as possible. Ngxe5 12.Nxe5+ Nxe5 13.Rxf5 The exchange sac is the most dangerous reply. exf5 14.Qxd5+ Bd6 15.Bf4 White has a powerful initiative. c6 16.Qd4 Qe7 Defending the knight on e5, the only way to do so. 17.Na3 The knight is making way for our rook on a1, which can either go to d1 or e1. Kc8 The best defense is to place the h8-rook on d8 instead. 17...Rad8? Is a very natural move, but it fails to the beautiful 18.Kf1! Moving the king allows us to play Re1 as it prevents

the trick of Nf3+. The king is also better placed on f1 than h1, as there are no back-rank mates. 18...Kc8 19.Re1 Black now loses the extra material, so he is forced to give the exchange back by playing 19...Bxa3 20.Qxe5 Qxe5 21.Bxe5 Bxb2 And here, we have the brilliant 22.Bf7! The point is that we are gaining a valuable tempo as we are threatening Be6+. 22...b5 Black gives the b7-square for his king. 23.Bxh8 Rxh8 24.Re7+- Black won't hold the endgame as our kingside pawns are faster and more furious. Black's pawns on the queenside can also be easily targeted by our R+B, for example by playing Be4 once we have captured the pawn on f5. 18.Kh1 This time, we can place the king on the h1-square. Rd8 19.Re1 We do once again head into a great endgame, but this time it's only 'close-to-winning.' Bxa3 20.Qxe5 Qxe5 21.Rxe5 Our bishops are stronger than Black's extra exchange. Bd6 Black has to get rid of one of our bishops in order to stand a chance in drawing. 21...Bxb2? Loses to 22.Rxf5 Now Bg4 is a powerful threat, so Black has to play 22...Kd7 23.Rf7+ Ke6 24.Rxh7 Black's problem is that our kingside pawns are so much faster. 24...Bxc3 25.g3+- Black is completely lost, so it's appropriate to stop here. 22.Rxf5 Bxf4 23.Rxf4 Kc7 24.h4 Our extra two pawns on the kingside are worth a lot. Black needs to get counterplay by playing active moves. Rf8 25.Re4 Trading a rook would make the defensive task for Black significantly easier, so we should avoid that if possible. Rad8

26.Re2 Preventing a rook to d2. Black certainly has chances of saving the game, but the road towards the half point remains long. 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1..-2...d5 (3...Bf5 11)]

10.Nxe5+ The most critical move, but Black has many moves to watch out for. I analyzed a lot here, but the chapter will never come to an end if I show all my analysis. Alternatives are: 10.g4!? 10.O-O!? and 10.c4!? The latter is the best alternative, but Black pulls a Houdini here as well... The most critical move, but Black has many moves to watch out for. I analyzed a lot here, but the chapter will never come to an end if I show all my analysis. Alternatives are: 10.g4!? 10.O-O!? 10.c4!? The best alternative, but Black pulls a Houdini here as well... 10...Nxe5

11.dxe5 hxc5 Black's idea and the best try. Other moves could be met by g4 and Rf1, when Black is in trouble as the desired counterplay down the h-file ceases to exist. 11... Ne7!? is best handled by 12.O-O , followed by a swift c4-Nc3. 12.g4 Stopping Black's play in the h-file, and preventing Black from playing g4 himself, which could be very dangerous. 12...Rxc5 A fantastic rook sacrifice, which... 12...Be4? Is natural, but inaccurate. 13.Rf1 Black has to be careful as he will quickly be completely lost if we are able to consolidate with Be3-Nd2. 13...c6 14.c4!? An interesting move. 14...Bxb1 Black's best move is to grab the knight according to my engine. 15.Rxb1 Qa5+ 16.Kf2! The king will be

perfectly safe on g3. 16...Be7 Protecting the pawn on g5. 17.cxd5 Qxd5 18.Be3 Nh6 19.Kg3±

White's pieces are much better placed than Black's. The upcoming endgame will be tough for Black to defend. If Black moves out of the pin we should take right away. If Black doesn't move out of the pin, a move like Rf2 could be smart, forcing Black to take first. 13.gxf5 We will not accept! Instead, we aim to get initiative ourselves! In fact, Black is better if we decide to be greedy and accept the offered material. 13...g4 Another brilliancy, opening up the queen's diagonal.

14.fxe6+ Kc8 The most accurate move. 14...Ke8 is also possible, but it looks unnatural to me as the king looks weaker there than on c8 . The game becomes rather complicated though, so feel free to investigate if you're curious! 15.Bf4

Qh4+ 16.Ke2 The only move that doesn't lose, as 16.Bg3 loses to 16...Qxc3! , winning a piece. The game from here is extremely complicated, but I feel like it's a crime to ask you to memorize everything. Still, I can't stop all the curious souls, but I want to emphasize that the chances for this to occur in a game is around 0%. It's just too difficult for a human being to find the most accurate moves, even for super-GMs...

16...Ne7 Is also good enough to equalize, as seen after 16...Bc5? Is a typical human move, but it loses. 17.Rf1 17.Qxd5 wins too, but this move is easier. Black doesn't have the required counterplay needed to

make his scheme work. 17...g3 18. hxc3 Qg4+ 19.Ke1+- The game will head into an endgame, where our extra pawns decide. 16...Bh6 Leads to a favorable endgame for us after 17.Qxd5 Qd8 18.Qxd8+ Kxd8 19.Bg3± It's not an easy position to defend, but the engine assures me that it's not lost yet for Black.

[16...g3 A very dangerous move. Now Qg4+ check is in the air when we can quickly lose. 17.Qxd5 It looks like that we're winning, but no! Nf6 Defends the square on d7 while developing a piece. 18.Qf3 g2 Black can't allow us to take on g3. 19.Rg1 Rf5 Another only move. Black can't allow us to consolidate. 20.Bg3 Qh3 Leads to a wild draw after 20... Qg5 21.h4! Is the most accurate way to proceed. 21...Qg6 22.Qxg2 Qg4+ 23.Ke1 23...Bc5 Black has to keep threatening stuff. 24.exf6 Bxg1 25. Qxg1 Rxf6 26.Kd2 Rxe6 We have gained two pieces for a rook, but Black has decent counterplay due to our vulnerable king. Further, I analyzed 27.Qf2 Re8 28.Kc1 Qf7 is a nice threat. 28...b6 29.Qf7 Kb7 30.Qxc7+ Ka6 Black's king survives on a6, believe it or not. 31.b4 31... Rac8 32.b5+ Kxb5! Black can take, as we have nothing. 33.Qf4 Qxf4+ 34.Bxf4 Re2 The last required precise move in order to draw the game. 35.a4+ Ka6 36.h5= White can try for a little longer, but the game is objectively drawn. 20...Qc4+ Leads to a marginally better endgame after 21.Qd3 Qxe6 22.Nd2 We are close to consolidating, so Black should hurry up and grab the e5-pawn.

22...Nh5 23.Nf3 23...c6! Stopping Rad1, as the king can move to c7. 24. Nd4 We can't do much else as Black's rook comes quickly with Rd8. 24...Nxc3+ 25.Qxc3 Rxe5+ 26.Kd3 Our king is safe on d3. 26...Rd5 27. Qxc2 Qf5+ 28.Qe4 Qxe4+ 29. Kxe4± The extra pawn gives us a mini-edge, but Black should of course draw. 21.Qxg2 Qg4+ There are two king moves here, but none of them lead anywhere on my engine. 22.Kd2 The exclamation is there as I think it's the best attempt. 22.Ke1 is a draw after 22...Bc5! 23.exf6 Bxg1 Black's point is that we can't take due to Re5! with a perpetual. 24.e7 is the best move, when the game ends in a draw after 24...Kd7 25.Nd2 Rxf6 26.Ne4 Rg6 27.Kd2 Re6! 28.Nf6+ Rxf6 29.Rxc1 Kxe7 30.Qxb7 Rd8+ 31.Kc1 Qg5+ 32.Kb1 Qf5+ , with a threefold. Bh6+ Another strong move, and the only one **CC** StartBracket **CC** again... **CC**EndBracket**CC**. 22...Bc5? Loses now, after 23.exf6 Bxg1 24.e7 Kd7 25.f7! The reason this works is that our king is much safer on d2 than e1. 25...Rxf7 26.Qxc3+- In 22.Ke1 , Rxe7+ would have happened now, but our king is on d2 instead. Thus, we have time to consolidate and our extra material will decide the game. 23.Kc2 Rf3 Threatening a perpetual with Qf5+ and Qxe6+. 24.Nd2 Qf5+ 25.Kb3 25.Kc1 doesn't win either as we can see after 25...Ne4 26.Bf4!? 26.Be1 is the other line, when 26... b6! 27.h4 Kb7 28.Qg4 Rh8! 29. Qxf5 Rxf5 should lead to a draw 26... Rxf4 27.Qg8+ Bf8 28.e7 Kd7 29. exf8=Q Rxf8 30.e6+ Kd6 31.Qg7 Nxd2 32.Qd7+ Ke5 33.Qxd2 Kxe6=

with an equal position. The game does continue though, as it's still possible to error. Qxe6+ 26.Nc4 Ne4 Once again the only move. It was really frustrating to me that Black's tactics always worked! 27.Be1 We must prevent Nd2+. Nc5+ 28.Kc2 Qf5+ 29.Kd1 Rd3+ 30.Ke2 Now Qg4 is a threat that leads to a terrible endgame, but Black has the amazing Rd4 Preventing Qg4! 31.Nd2 Qh5+ Another accuracy, taking h2 with check, then e5. 32.Qf3 32.Kf1 is a draw after 32...Rf4+ 33. Bf2 Nd3 34.Ne4 Qf5 35.Rd1 Nxf2 36.Nxf2 c6 37.Rd2 Qb1+ 38.Ke2 Qf5 39.Kf1 . Qxh2+ 33.Rg2 Qxe5+ 34.Kd1 Rd8 Covering any sorts of tricks on the last rank. 35.Qh3+ Pulling the emergency break. Qe6 36.Qxe6+ Nxe6 37.Kc2 With a drawn endgame... What else can I say? Chess is a fantastic game. 16. Nimzowitch's Defense (1...-2...d5 (3... Bf5 13)]

17.Rf1 Rf5 Black has to make sure we can't cause damage in the f-file. 18.Bg3 Qh5 19.Nd2 b6 Black has to make room for his king, preventing our cunning plan of playing Ne4-Nf6. 20.a4 a5 21.Qb3 Our plan is to play Qd7+, followed by Rae1 and Kd1 when our king will be very safe. In case of 21...Bh6 , we can take on f5 and play Rf1 when we maintain some initiative. Black's best move is the strong sacrifice 21...Rxe5+ 22.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 23.Kd1 Kb7 24.Kc2 The position is unclear as Black's pieces are active and his king safe on b7. That being said, I would pick White as an error from Black would surely be fatal. 16.

Nimzowitch's Defense (1...-2...d5 (3...Bf5 12)

5.Ne2 1-0 Kashdan,I-Flohr,S
Hamburg ol (Men) 1930 (16)

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5...f6 Here 5...h5 without White playing f4 is not that effective and we can respond with 6.Ndf3 followed by 7. Bd3 and developing the knight to e2 later. After all this drama, it gives White a nice advantage. 6.f4 With An incredible pawn chain! If Black starts counterplay right away with 6...Nh6 Activating the Knight and preparing to develop his Kingside with ...Be7 followed by O-O. Black has some other alternatives here as well: Since placing the knight on e7 will block the f8-bishop, Black plants his knight on h6.

[6...a6 Black prevents Bb5 pinning his Knight, at the cost of a tempo: 7.Ngf3 g5

Fighting for control over the squares e5 and f4. 8.Nb3 gxf4 One game here continued with 9. Bd3, but that move looks hard to understand. I prefer the simple 9.Bxf4 fxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 Nf6 (11...Qh4+ 12.Bg3 Qe4+ 13.Qe2 Bd6 14.Nc5 Qxe2+ 15.Bxe2 0-0-0 16.0-0 and White has a small edge in the ending as e6 is a long-term weakness, for example Bxg3 17.hxg3 Nh6 18.Rf4 Rhg8 19.Kf2 White follows up with Rh1, with some pressure. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6) 12.Bd3 is terrible for Black. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-5... f6 #1]

[6...g5 The acid test for White. Black breaks the pawn chain with a ...g5 thrust and now the ball is in White's court. then White has to play

energetically in order to secure and consolidate his advantage:

A) 7.Bb5 The move 7.Qh5+!? Bg6 8.Qh3 is the other possibility here, activating the Queen: Qd7 9. Bb5 gxf4 10.Ndf3 followed by Bxf4 or Ne2, with interesting play. White is finishing up his development while maintaining control over the e5 and f4-squares. gxf4 8.Ngf3 8.Ndf3 fxe5 leads to a very complex and unbalanced position: 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.dxe5 Ne7 11.Ne2 Ng6 12.O-O Black can defend his pawn with ...Bh6 or simply play c5 13.Nxf4 Nxf4 14. Bxf4 Be7 when his light-squared Bishop is quite powerful and he has the open g-file. fxe5 9.dxe5 Unfortunately taking with the Knight on e5 leads to unclear play because Black has a Queen check on h4, preventing White from being able to castle. Nge7 10.Nd4 Attacking f5 and c6 and getting the possibility of Qh5+. Qd7 (10...Rg8 11.Qh5+ Bg6 12.Qh3 Qd7 13.Qxe6 0-0-0 14.0-0 a6 15.Be2 Bh6 16.N2b3 Be4 17.Qxd7+ Rxd7 18.g3 Black cannot capture on g3 as his Bishop on h6 is hanging. Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Black is probably close to equality here, nevertheless White still has some chances to retain pressure in the ending. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6) 11.N2b3 a6 12.Bxc6 Nxc6 13.Nxf5 exf5 14.0-0 0-0-0 15.Bxf4 Qe6 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 White has some edge in the position due to his better pawn structure, but it's not simple to break through. Nimzowitsch

Defence-B6;

B) 7.Qh5+ 7.Bb5 was mentioned by Wesley So in his Chessable course, but I was not happy with the outcome after 7...gxf4 8.Ngf3 fxe5 9.dxe5 Nge7 10.Nd4 Rg8 operating on the g-file 11.Qh5 Bg6 12.Qh3 Qd7 13.Qxe6 O-O-O 14. O-O a6 15.Be2 and after this long sequence, Wesley does not consider the option of 15...Nxd4 16.Qxd7 Rxd7 17.cxd4 Bh6 supporting the f4-pawn. 18.Nb3 Be4 19.Bf3 safeguarding the g2-pawn but after 19...Nc6 Black obtains huge counterplay. This was the issue and hence I was probing into different options and found 7. Qh5 more pleasant than 7.Bb5. 7...Bg6 If 7...Kd7 then White can play 8.Ndf3 and he is slightly better as the king on d7 is misplaced. 8.Qh3 Attacking the e6-pawn! Qd7 If 8...Bf5 then White can first play 9.g4 challenging the bishop and White is clearly better. 9.Ngf3 The other knight on d2 will go to b3 now. There is currently pressure on Black's g5-pawn, so he is no longer able to maintain the central tension. gxf4 10.Bb5 Pinning the c6-knight and White will move his knight to b3 to capture the pawn on f4. 0-0-0 Looks logical and the point is if 11.Nb3 immediately then Black has 11... Bf5 12.Qh5 fxe5 13.Nxe5 Qg7 and thanks to the fact that the g2-pawn is under attack, Black obtains compensation. (10...Bf5 leads to an endgame after 11.Qh5+ Qf7 12.Qxf7+ Kxf7 13.Nb3 And this endgame is slightly better

for White as he will regain the pawn on f4 back and with his well developed pieces and castle to follow next, Black has some problems with his king placed on f7. Also, the centre is under control thanks to the bishop on b5 eyeing the c6-knight and Black is unable to capture the pawn on e5 which will always be met by Bxc6 and Nxe5.

Chapter Offbeat Openings-Nimzowitsch Defence With) 11.Nh4 Looks at the key bishop on g6 and also prevents ...Bf5 at the same time. Nh6 Blocking the h-file as White was threatening to take on g6 due to the pin on the h-file. 12.Ndf3 Now the knight on d2 takes a different route. In this case, both of the knights are on perfect squares

CC StartBracket CC The knight on h4 keeps an eye on the g6-bishop and the knight on f3 controls the central square on e5CCEndBracket CC. Be7 13.exf6 13.Bxf4 Nf5 14.exf6 Bxf6 transposes. At some point, we need to release the tension in the center in order to profit from the e5-square. As our pieces are now well coordinated, this is the right time to do it. Bxf6 14.Bxf4 Nf5 15.0-0 15.Be5 is also interesting, challenging the bishop on f6 which is safeguarding the e5-square, but leads to some exchange of pieces after 15...Bxh4+ 16.Nxh4 Nxh4 17.Qxh4 17.Bxh8 is met by a sneaky trick with 17...Nxg2 18.Qxg2 Be4 17...Rhg8 attacking the g2-pawn 18.O-O a6 19.Bxc6 and White has the more pleasant position with a powerful bishop on

e5. Nxh4 16.Nxh4 Be4 The bishop gets activated and Black will bring his rook to g8 to exert pressure on the g2-pawn. 17.Rae1 Rdg8 Threatening ...Bxh4 and Rxc2+ with a winning game. 18.Bg3 Blocking the g-file from any attack. Next, we will reroute our knight on h4 to f3-d2 and harass the key bishop on e4. White has a slightly more pleasant position here.

Chapter Offbeat Openings-Nimzowitsch Defence With]

[6...Be7 is inaccurate in view of 7.g4 Bg6 8.h4 fxe5 (8...h5 9.g5 Now the Knight on g8 will find it really difficult to develop itself. Qd7 10.Bh3 0-0-0 11.Qe2 fxe5 12.fxe5 Rf8 13.Nb3 Be4 14.Rh2 White has some edge in the position as it is not easy to activate the g8-Knight. Black cannot play ...Bd8 obviously due to the move Nc5. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6) 9.h5 leads to complications that are clearly in White's favour, and if he decides to avoid sacrificing a piece with Bh4+ 10.Ke2 Bf7 then after 11.fxe5 his Bishop on f7 is going to be very passive for a long time. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6]

7.Ngf3

[7.Ndf3 With the idea of Bd3 and Ne2. Be7 8.Bd3 Exchanging off the active bishop on f5. Bxd3 9.Qxd3 Nf5 10.Ne2 h5 11.Bd2 And White has achieved his ideal setup maintaining the formidable centre. Chapter Offbeat Openings-Nimzowitsch Defence With]

7...Qd7

[7...Be7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 I like this move as White keeps the option to take on f6 or keep the pawn chain on

d4,e5 and f4. We have reached what is considered to be probably the main line of the Nimzowitsch Defence 1. e4 Nc6 2. d4 d5 3. e5. Black has a solid but a bit cramped position and both sides have to play accurately as it can be easy to drift and get outplayed in this position. Nevertheless White may also take on f6 right away: 9.exf6 Bxf6 10.O-O the play in the game is quite similar as in the main line White intends to improve the position of his Knights by playing Ne1-Nd3 and Nd2-f3. In one game Black played a5 It is probably better for him to continue with 10...Qe8 when we transpose to the variation 9. O-O Qe8. 11.a4 Preventing Black from gaining space on the Queenside. b6 12.h3 !? Preparing to kick Black's pieces and gain space with g2-g4. Ne1 was also playable. Be7 13.g4 Bg6 14.Qe1 ! Bd6 14...Rxf4 leads to White's favour after 15.Bb5 as the pawn on e6 is hanging. 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 ! Bc5+ 17.Kh2 White is going to use his Kingside pawn majority to try to steamroll Black on that flank. Nf7 18. Qg3 Qd7 18...d4 only makes matters worse due to 19.Bc4 19.Nb3 Rae8 20.Be3 After this move White is slowly but surely gaining control. Bxe3 21.Qxe3 Nd4 is coming next move, so Black should try to muddy the waters. Be4 22.Nd2 Bc2 !? 23. b3 h6 24.Rac1 Bg6 25.Rce1 ± White has some edge in Romm,M - Stoeckert,M 2019 thanks to his mobile Kingside pawn structure. However, the game remains very complex. White can try to improve the position of his Knight next with Nf3-d4, etc. In case of

A) 9...Qe8 10.exf6 It is also interesting to keep the pawn on e5 and not to trade it. He can play instead 10.Ne1 the idea is to improve the position of the Knight with Nd3 and possibly Nf2, to control the g4 and e4-squares. This move deserves more attention. After fxe5 11.fxe5 we actually transpose to a variation analysed in the move-order 9... fxe5. Bxf6 11.b4 White does not play hesitantly and fights for more space on the Queenside right away. He can play Nb3 or a4-b5 later on, seizing some squares and expelling the enemy Knight away from c6. Later White may even consider activating his Bishop on the a3-f8 diagonal. After a6 (11...Qg6 12.Qe1 Nf7 13.b5 Nb8 14.a4 Nd7 15.Ba3 Rfe8 we are following the game Sanchez Carol, J - Latypov, M 2018. Here instead of the game continuation 16.Ra2 !? , with future ideas of a5 followed by Rb2, I suggest instead the move 16.a5 intending to weaken the c6-square with the move a5-a6. c5 17.bxc6 bxc6 18.Ne5 Nfxe5 19.fxe5 Bg5 20.Nf3 Be3+ 21.Kh1 Qh6 22.Bd6 and White maintains with an edge, as he controls the b8 and f8 squares (thereby preventing Black from activating his Rooks) and he is preparing the manoeuvre Ra2 followed by Rb2, seizing the b-file. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6) 12.Nb3 Nf7 (12...Qg6 runs into 13.Nc5 when the pawns on b7 and a6 are on target and the square d7 is also an attractive spot for our Knight. b6 14.Nxa6 Ra7 15.a4

White is simply a pawn up and he can support his Knight with b4-b5. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6) 13.Ne5 Nd6 Here White may consider the move 14.Bh5 Qe7 (14...g6 15.Be2 Creating additional dark-square weaknesses on Black's Kingside and after Bg7 16.a4 Ne4 17.Qe1 White has a small but persistent advantage. Nevertheless, the game remains very complex. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6) 15.g4 forces Black to play the ugly 15...g6, as Be4 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.g5 traps the unfortunate Bishop on f6. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6;

B) 9...fxe5 10.fxe5 In case of White should not recapture with his Knight because after 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.fxe5 he has the pawn break c5 with excellent counterplay.

B1) 10...Qe8 Black is activating his Queen to the b1-h7 diagonal. 11.Ne1 Controlling the light-squares in White's camp, and preparing to improve the position of his Knight by moving it to d3. Controlling the light-squares in White's camp, and preparing to improve the position of his Knight by moving it to d3. Probably Black's best defence is the move

B1a) 11...Nd8 An unusual move, but Black is preparing the pawn break ...c7-c5 in order to gain some counterplay. 12.Nd3 In one game Black made a mistake of letting White take on h6 and double his pawns: b6 (12...Rc8 13.Nf3 b6 14.Bxh6 gxh6 15.Qd2 Nf7

16.h4 White controls the g5-square and prepares to move his Knight to the aggressive square on f4. Black's King position is quickly becoming awful. Kh8 17.Nf4 Nd8 18.Kh2 Rf7 19.g3 c5 20.Rf2 Rg7 21.Raf1 White has a positionally winning advantage in Schlenther, M -Latypov, M 2017. The simple Bd3 is one of his threats. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6) 13.Nf4 c5 It seems that Black is gaining some counterplay on d4, but here White has prepared the strong 14.g4 Gaining space on the Kingside while kicking the enemy Bishop to a more passive square. Bg6 15.h3 Bg5 (15...cxd4 16.cxd4 Nc6 and now thanks to the pin 17.Bb5 White retains a big edge, for example: a6 18.Bxc6 Qxc6 19.Nxg6 Rxf1+ 20.Nxf1 hxg6 21.Be3 followed by Rc1, gaining control over the c-file. Black's doubled g-pawns are a permanent weakness. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6) 16.Nxg6 Qxg6 17.Rxf8+ Kxf8 18.Nf3 Bxc1 19.Rxc1 Nhf7 20.Qd2 Qh6 21.Qxh6 Nxh6 22.Ba6 Nhf7 23.Kf2 White maintains a stable advantage in the endgame, thanks to his extra space. His King quickly becomes active and he also has the plan of opening up the Queenside with the move b2-b4 and a2-a4. This is a dream position for

White in the ending.
Nimzowitsch Defence-B6;

B1b) 11...Bg5 freeing up his position a bit by trading off some minor pieces. 12.Ndf3 Bxc1 13.Rxc1 Ne7 14.Qd2 Ng6 15.Nd3 Qe7 16.h3 b6 17.Nf2 White is preparing to play g2-g4, highlighting the limited squares that Black has for his Bishop. The position is complex, but slightly better for White thanks to his extra space. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6;

B1c) 11...Qg6 is met by 12.Bh5 not winning the Queen unfortunately, but forcing a better endgame Bg4 13.Rxf8+ Rxf8 14.Qxg4 Qxg4 15.Bxg4 Nxb4 16.Ndf3 Unfortunately for Black his Knight has no other way to retreat other than on h6, allowing White to double his pawns. Nh6 17.Bxh6 g6 18.Nd3 White has a stable edge in the ending with his extra space and better pawn structure. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6;

B2) 10...a5 White can continue with the typical idea Ne1-d3, but in the game, Ghysens, D - Stoeckert, M 2019 White chose instead to play 11.a4 Preventing Black from gaining space on the Queenside. They continued Qe8 12.Ne1 Bg5 13.h3 White is preparing to kick Black's pieces from their ideal squares and gain space on the Kingside by the move g2-g4. Ne7 14.g4 Be3+ (14...Bg6 15.Ndf3 Bxc1

16.Qxc1 Be4 17.Qe3 followed by Ng2, gives White a safe and risk-free advantage. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6) 15.Kh2 Qg6 16.Ng2 He cannot create decisive threats on White's King because everything is well defended in our camp. Bc2 17.Qe1 Rxf1 18.Nxf1 Bxc1 19.Qxc1 Be4 20.Nh4 Qf7 21.Qe3 Ng6 22.Nxg6 Bxg6 23.Kg3 and White managed to consolidate against Black's threats. Now he has a nice space advantage and a slightly better position. Nimzowitsch Defence-B6]

8.Be2 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 Here 10.b4 is a natural continuation, preparing to gain space by playing Nb3 followed by b4-b5, kicking the enemy Knight away. 10...a6

11.Nb3 In general, the Queen is less effective on d7 than on say, e8. On d7 she does not have a better square to go, and her movement is hampered by the pieces on e7 and on c6. Black does not have an active plan. 11...Be4 The Bishop looks very active and solid on this square, but we continue on with our Queenside expansion. 12.a4

Kh8 Now White has many good moves, one possibility is 13.Ne1 in order to bring the knight to d3. 13...b6 14.Nd3 fxe5 15.fxe5 Rxf1+ 16.Bxf1

White is better thanks to his extra space, and Black does not have any threatening counterplay. The Bishop on e4 can always be attacked by Nf2 later. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-5... f6 #10

5...h5 right away, White may change plans and opt for 6.Ngf3 instead of f2-f4. He wants to develop his pieces quickly and castle short. In addition, he has the move Bb5 coming, pinning the enemy Knight and maintaining even stronger control on e5. 6...a6 7.Be2 f6 8.0-0 Nh6 9.Nb3 If 9...fxe5 White can recapture the pawn

[9...Nf7 Putting pressure on e5, fortunately here White has a strong and unusual response. 10.Nh4 Highlighting the weaknesses on f5 and h5, and Black's Kingside light-squares. In case Black takes the pawn on e5: Be4 (10...fxe5 11.Nxf5 exf5 12.dxe5 Nfxe5 13.Re1 Kf7 14.Bxh5+ g6 15.Bf3 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3 White regains the pawn, and has a good lead in development and the possibility to attack Black's King in the center. Nimzowitsch Defence-N, N) 11.Bxh5 fxe5 12.Qg4 Works well for White concretely. Qd7 13.Ng6 Bxg6 14.Qxg6 Bd6 15.g3 Black cannot castle, and meanwhile White has the Bishop pair and strong pressure along the light-squares. Nimzowitsch Defence-N,N]

10.dxe5 gaining the d4-square as an outpost for his Knight. 10...Qd7 11.Nbd4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 g6 13.Re1 White has stable control over the center, and Black cannot tolerate having a powerful enemy Knight on d4 so he has to play challenging for control of the d4-square. White of course does not take the Bishop and allow Black to have a powerful Knight on f5. Instead 13...c5

14.Bxh6 is good enough for an edge. 14...Bxh6 15.Nxf5 gxf5 16.Bxh5+ Kd8

17.c4 Opening the diagonal for his light-squared Bishop. Black has to keep the d-file closed as otherwise his King could run under attack. 17...d4

18.Bf3 The Bishop is very powerful on the long diagonal. He can later aim to open up the Queenside with Rb1 or b2-b4 immediately followed by Rb1. He is still a pawn up with a better position. Nimzowitsch Defence-N,N

¹⁰⁹ **6.Bb5** Making use of the queen and the king being lined up on d7 and e8 by pinning the c6-knight. If kicked, we can return to a4 and c2 and exchange off the active bishop on f5 . 6.f4 was suggested by So, but I was not convinced after Black's 6...h5 7.Be2 h4 8.Ngf3 and here I found a breathtaking novelty with 8...Nce7! A weird move, but an effective one with the idea of ...Bg4 and ...Nf5, also leaving the c-file free for the Black pawn to march. For instance, he can play ...c6 anytime and make the pawn structure rigid. I could not see some constructive plans for White here. Moreover, the c6-knight is badly placed as it is restricted by our pawns on e5 and d4, and rerouting it makes some sense.

6...a6 7.Ba4 f6 It looks logical as at some point, Black has to challenge our center. Otherwise, he will simply be doomed to passivity. 8.f4 The standard response to ...f6, building the center. 8...Nge7

[8...Be7 9.Ndf3 Forming our suggested setup with one knight to f3 and the other one to e2. Nh6 10.Ne2 Now White's coordination is better.

0-0 11.0-0 Thanks to the well built centre, White maintains a slight plus. Be4 12.exf6 Releasing the tension in order to exploit the e5-square. Bxf6 13.Ng3 Shoving the bishop away from e4 which is actively placed. Bg6 14.Nh1 A cool knight sortie with the plan of Nf2-Nd3 and White makes use of the e5-square. Chapter Offbeat Openings-Nimzowitsch Defence With] 9.Ndf3 9.Ngf3 is also possible. 9...Ng6 attacks the f4-pawn and Black will place his bishop on e7 followed by castling. The knight on g6 will create more pressure on the f4-pawn at some point, but the drawback of this setup is that the bishop on f5 has no proper squares. 10.Nf1 The knight paves the way for the c1-bishop to support the f4-pawn and now White's knight is headed to g3 to disturb the f5-bishop. 10...Be7 11.h4 One more interesting idea thanks to Black's knight on g6. White intends h5 next. 11...h5 11...fxe5 12.dxe5 is no good and h5 is coming. 12.Bc2 Exchanging the key light-squared bishop which is holding the position together and Black is slightly worse here. The idea of the text move with 9.Ndf3 is to achieve our standard setup of one knight to f3 and the other one to e2. 9...Bg4 9...Be4 is met by 10.Nh3 as now we can't place our knight to e2 due to Bxf3. After 10.Nh3, White can continue with short castle, Nf2, and Bc2 to secure a slight plus. 10.h3 Bh5 11.Be3 With the intention to meet 11...Nf5 with 12.Bf2 and g4 is next. 11...0-0-0 12.b4 Time to go for it on the queenside. White aims

for an attack and thanks to Black's pawn on a6, he can breakthrough via b5. 12...Kb8 13.b5 Crashing through. 13...axb5 14.Bxb5 The position has now opened up. 14...Nc8 Black paves the way for the f8-bishop and intends to kick the annoying bishop on b5 by N8a7. 15.a4 N8a7 16.Be2 Unpinning the f3-knight and White will next reroute his f3-knight to d2 in order to exchange the bishops and get his other knight on g1 into the game. Black has to be careful with his king as the b-file is opened. White has a slightly better position here. Chapter Offbeat Openings-Nimzowitsch Defence With

¹¹⁰ **8.Ngf3** Be7 9.0-0 Nh6 10.a4 Black can also play 10...Bg6 allowing b2-b4: 11.b4 a5 12.b5 Na7 13.Re1 With the idea to protect the e3-square and to prepare the manoeuvre Nf1-e3 in some cases, fighting for control over the vital f5-square. After 13.Nb3 b6 14.Ba3 Bxa3 15.Rxa3 Nf5 16.Qd2 Nc8 Black is very solid, and he has firm control over the f5-square. 13...Nf5 14.Bd3 Nc8 15.Qe2 Nb6 16.Nb3 Qc8 17.Qf2 White is planning to play Ba3 next, fighting for the dark-squares along the a3-f8 diagonal. Black has very little space on the board, and he has to pay constant attention to his h4-pawn, which might be in danger once the dark-squared Bishops come off the board. Black is still solid in this position of course, but he is passive and White's position should be easier to play. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-3... Bf5 4.

c3 e6 5. Nd2 Qd7

- ¹¹¹ **8.b4** White gains space on the Queenside and prepares to meet ... fxe5 with b4-b5, highlighting the vulnerable position of the Knight on c6. 8...Qd7 9.0-0 Nge7 10.Nbd2 White does not hurry to play b4-b5 yet as then Black's Knight would have a comfortable spot on a5. First he brings the Knight to b3, controlling a5 and c5 before kicking the black Knight away with b5. 10...Ng6 11.Nb3 0-0-0 Black's King really does not have a perfect, safe place to go. Nevertheless, on the Queenside it can run under attack. 12.a4 Re8 13.b5 Nd8 Black creates counterplay against e5 with ...Nf7, but White gets there first. 14.c4 dxc4 15.Bxc4 fxe5 16.Qe2 exd4 17.Nfxd4 White has a strong attack and winning compensation for the pawn. The game continued 17...e5 18.b6 cxb6 19.Bb5 Nc6 20.Nxf5 Qxf5 21.a5 Re6 22.a6 Kb8 23.axb7 1-0 Bissmann, S -Morin, S 2010. Black has no defence to the Queenside attack and his counterplay is non existent. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-3... Bf5 4. c3 h5

- ¹¹² **4.f4** '♘' Casalini, L.: '♘' 4...Nh6 Flexible, keeping the option of bringing out his queen's bishop to f5 or g4. [4...Bf5 5.Nf3 (5.Ne2 Qd7 6.Ng3 Bg4 7.Be2 Bxe2 As so often in this defence, the trade of light-squared bishops furthers Black's aims rather than White's. 8.Nxe2 e6 9.Be3 Nge7 Almost imperceptibly, Black has gained tangible influence over the

centre, and White's remaining dark-squared bishop is seriously restricted by its own pawns. 10.0-0 Nf5 11.Qd2 h5 This strategically valuable advance of Black's h-pawn plays a vital role. 12.Ng3 A common factor in this opening is that White simply cannot tolerate the continued presence of the black knight on f5 and therefore accepts doubled pawns in order to eliminate it. However, White's doubled pawns on the g-file represent an attractive target for Black's further attack, by means of ...h5-h4. Nxg3 13.hxg3 Ne7 14.Bf2 f5 Black no longer requires the f5-square for his knight. It is more important to fix White's g3-pawn as a weakness in preparation for the line-opening attack ...h5-h4. 15.Na3 Ng6 16.Qd3 Kf7 A vital step in connecting Black's rooks. The king is safer on f7 than it would be after ...O-O-O. 17.c4 Bxa3 18.Qxa3 h4 The final attack commences. There is no need to risk the opening of the position after 18... dxc4. 19.cxd5 Qxd5 20.Rac1 c6 21.Rc5 Qd7 22.b4 h3 White's demonstration on the other wing comes too late. There is really no defence to Black's numerous options on the h-file. 23 Qf3! is the sole try. 23.gxh3 Rxh3 24.Qc1 Rah8 The immediate 24...b6 wins more quickly. 25.b5 Ne7 26.Kg2 b6 ! This elegant move, somewhat overdue, now gains control of the vital d5 square for Black's queen. 27.bxc6 Nxc6 28 Rxc6 Qd5+ leads to checkmate, while after 28 Rb5 Ne7 (or 28...Nxd4) White also loses control of the long light-squared diagonal. 0-1 (27) Kotov-Kottbauer Kapfenberg

1961 [01: Active Bishop]) 5...e6 6.Bb5 Qd7 7.0-0 0-0-0 8.c3 a6 9.Ba4 Be4 10.b4 b5 11.Bb3 Nge7 12.a4 Kb7 13.axb5 axb5 14.Qe2 Nb8 15.Nbd2 Bxf3 16.Nxf3 Nc8 17.Ra5 Nb6 18.Rxb5 Nc6 19.f5 Be7 20.Be3 Rhe8 21.Ra1 Ra8 22.Rxa8 Kxa8 23.fxe6 Qxe6 24.Qa2+ Kb7 25.Bxd5 Qd7 26.Rxb6+ Kxb6 27.Bxc6 Kxc6 28.Qa4+ 1-0 (28) Andresen, O-Nimzowitsch, A Oslo - Simul 1921]

5.Nf3N

[5.c3 Bg4 6.Qb3 (6.Be2 Bxe2 7.Qxe2 e6 8.Nh3 Qd7 9.Nd2 Be7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 f5 12.Nf2 Nimzowitch'S Defense-2...d5) 6...Rb8 7.Bd3 e6 8.Be3 Bf5 9.Bxf5 Nxf5 10.Bf2 fxe5 11.fxe5 Qg5 12.Ne2 Qxg2 13.Rg1 Qxh2 14.Nd2 Be7 15.Nf1 Qh6 16.Nfg3 Nxc3 17.Rxc3 0-0 18.Be3 Qh1+ 19.Rg1 Qe4 0-1 (20) Mohd Tarmizi, N (2097)-10. cd4 ♗c6 11. ♖d3 f5 6505 (2074) 85/414 Belfort 2002 (1)]

5...Bg4

[5...Bf5 is another valid choice here, but to me it makes sense to find good squares for ALL of Black's pieces, and the h6 knight may want to come to f5.]

6.Be2 Nf5

[6...e6

A) 7.Be3 -0.14/19 7.0-0 0.52 Be7 0.42/20 (7...g5= -0.14/19) 8.0-0 0-0 9.c3 Kh8 0.74/18 was Norberg, J (2176)-Johansson, R Rilton Cup 33rd Stockholm 2003. (9...fxe5= 0.23/20 10.fxe5 Nf5);

B) 7.c3 Be7 8.0-0 f5 1.35/19 (Black should try 8...0-0± 0.48/18 is more flexible.; Black should try 8...0-0± 0.48/18) 9.b4± Qd7 10.Nbd2 Nf7 left Black without

much space in Esenov, A (2319)-Kristjansson, S (2474) WMSG Rapid Team 1st Beijing 2008.]

7.c3 e6 8.0-0 Bxf3 0.88/19

[8...Be7 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 0.22/21 (10.Rxf3± 0.61/21 0-0 11.Bd3)

10...fxe5= 11.fxe5 0-0 12.Bg4 Bg5 was about equal in Kazarian, A (2125)-Jarovsky, A (2305) Speed Chess GP4 Chess.com INT blitz 2021.]

[8...h5± 0.39/18]

9.Bxf3± White is better. 9...fxe5 10.fxe5 Be7 11.Bg4 0-0 was OK for Black in.

Voroshilov, D (1959)-Mikhaletz, L (2304) Kiev Blitz Marathon 2023.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless) Nimzowitsch Defence-3.e5 f6 4.f4 2024

b) 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2

[5.Bb5 fxe5 (5...Qd7 6.-- Δa6) 6.dxe5 e6 is very comfortable for Black.

A) a) 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nge7;

B) b) 7.c4 -0.12/18 7.Nbd2 0.40 Bb4+ 8.Nc3 -0.26/19 (8.Bd2 0.22/20 is superior. Bxd2+ 9.Nbxd2) 8...Nge7 aiming for ...0-0.

9.cxd5 -1.08/20 (9.h3= 0.07/19 Bh5 10.0-0) 9...Qxd5 was already good for Black in Abdrlauf, E (2518)-Schneider, I (2483) EU-ch Blitz Katowice 2022.;

C) 7.0-0 Alternatively: 7...Bc5 8.Nbd2 -0.15/21 (Δ8.h3 0.25/19 Bxf3 9.Qxf3) 8...Nge7= 9.h3 Bh5 10.Nb3 Bb6 11.Qd3 0-0 was nice for Black in Hecht, C (2091)-Maier, A (2311) Bayern-chl Bank Hofmann 17th Bad Wiessee 2013. White did not feel at home in the position after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16
(very precise) / Black=0.05
(flawless) Nimzowitsch Defence-3.
e5 f6 4.Nf3 [GM Nigel Davies]]

[5.Bf4 a6 (5...g5!?!; 5...Bxf3!? 6.gxf3
e6!)]

5...Qd7

[5...e6

A) 6.Bf4?! Bxf3! 7.Bxf3 fxe5
8.dxe5 Bc5 9.Nd2 Nge7 10.Nb3
Bb6 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Bg3 Ng6
13.h4 Bd4!

A1) 14.h5 Nf4 (14...Ngxe5??
15.Nxd4);

A2) 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Qd3 c5
16.h5 Nf4! 17.Bxf4 Rxf4
18.0-0-0 Qg5 19.Kb1 Qxe5
20.c3 Nxf3 21.gxf3 Qf6
(21...c4±) 22.Qb5 b6 23.Qc6
Rf8 24.Qb7 (24.Rhe1±)
24...Qf7 25.Qxf7+ R8xf7 26.h6
Rxf3 27.hxg7 Rxf2 28.Rh6
R2f6 0-1 (28) Spear,H-E,W corr
1933 UltraCorr3a [Stolcenberg, L.
];

B) 6.exf6 Stolcenberg, L.: '△'
6...Nxf6 (6...gxf6; 6...Qxf6) 7.c3
(7.Bf4 B.Larsen) 7...Bd6

B1) 8.Bg5 Qd7 (8...0-0
Prokes) 9.Nbd2 h6 (9...0-0!
10.-- △Ne7= S.Tartakower)
10.Bh4 g5 11.Bg3 0-0-0!?
12.Qa4 Kb8 13.Bb5 a6
14.Bxc6 Qxc6 15.Qxc6± bxc6
16.Ne5! Bxe5 17.Bxe5 Rhf8
18.h4! Ne4 19.f3 Nxd2 20.Kxd2
Bf5 21.hxg5 hxg5 22.g4 Bg6
23.Ke3 Rf7 24.Rh3 Rdf8
25.Rf1 Kb7 26.Rh6 Be4 27.f4
Kb6! 28.c4! c5 29.f5! Kb7 30.f6
cxd4+ 31.Bxd4 e5! 32.Bc5!
(32.Bxe5? Re8) 32...Re8
33.cxd5 Bxd5 34.Rf5 Rg8

35.Rxe5 Bxa2 36.Be7 Kc6
37.Rh5 Kd7 38.Rexg5 Rxc5
39.Rxc5 Rh7 40.Ra5 Be6
41.Kf4 Rh4 42.Rg5 Rh8
43.Rg7 Rg8 44.Rxc8 Bxc8
45.Kg5 Be6 46.Kg6! 1-0 (46)
Treybal,K-Spielmann,R Carlsbad
1923 Nimzowitsch Defence
[Harding, T.];

B2) 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.0-0 Qe8
Harding, T.: '= ' Harding, T.: 'B.
Larsen' (9...Ne7? 10.Ng5)
10.h3 Bxf3 11.Nxf3 e5
B 00/10 2000]

6.Nbd2 0-0-0 7.Nb3 e6 8.Be3 h6
9.Nh4 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 Qf7 11.0-0 g5
12.Nf3 f5 13.Ne1 Nge7 14.Nc5 Nb8
15.Qb5 b6 16.Nb3 f4 17.Bd2 Ng6
18.a4 h5 0-1 (43) 7.h4 ♕e7 8.♖g1 ♜h7
(1918)-Baron Cabrera,J (1965)
XVIII Open Cappelle la Grande
2002 (6) 19.a5 a6 20.Qe2
0-1 (43) 7.h4 ♕e7 8. ♖g1 ♜h7
(1918)-Baron Cabrera,J (1965)
XVIII Open Cappelle la Grande
2002 (6)

4.Bd3 Here's a roundup of the
alternatives: Stolcenberg, L.: '!?'

4...Nxd4N

[4...g6

A) 5.f4?! allows Black to reach a
comfortable position after Nxd4
6.Bxc6+ hxg6 7.Qxd4 Bf5 .;

B) Instead, 5.exf6 solves the
problem of the e5-pawn, but not of
the one on d4. After Nxf6 6.c3
(6.Nf3 Bg4 transposes to the text)
6...e5! 7.dxe5 Nxe5 8.Be2 Bg7
9.Nf3 (9.f4 just weakens the
kingside and Black gets a good
game after Nf7) 9...Nxf3+ 10.Bxf3
0-0 Black has the clearly better
position.;

C) 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.exf6 Nxf6
 Christoph Wisnewski: 'transposes to the text' 7.c3 Bg7 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 0-0 10.Qe2 e5 Christoph Wisnewski: '!' 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.0-0 Nh5 (Black could have removed one bishop from the board with **12...Nxd3** , but he is looking for more.) 13.Be3 Qh4 14.Nd2 Rad8 (**14...Rae8** makes more sense, introducing the rook to a vis-à-vis with the white queen.) 15.Kh2 Nf4 Christoph Wisnewski: 'All the black pieces have moved into attacking positions.' 16.Bxf4 Qxf4+ 17.g3 Christoph Wisnewski: '??' (Admittedly White throws the game away rather too quickly, but after **17.Kg1 Rde8!** the position remains extremely difficult; for example 18.Nb3 Re7 , followed by ...Rfe8, and Black has fun on the e-file.) 17...Qxd2 18.Qxd2 Nf3+ 19.Kg2 0-1 (22) Ondrejka,P-5. ♔g5 ♘bd7 6. e3 La 76/530 Havana 1999 Nxd2 20.Rfd1 Ne4 21.f3 Nc5 22.Bf1 c6 0-1 (22) Myagmarsuren,L-Van Geet, D Varna 1958 Play 1...Nc6 [Christoph Wisnewski]]

5.Qh5+ g6 6.Bxg6+ hxg6 7.Qxh8
 In this position the computer likes lots of moves for Black, but the problem is in finding one that is easy to remember! 7...Nxc2+ Probably the best, though the idea is to displace White's king and develop fast, rather than win the rook on a1.

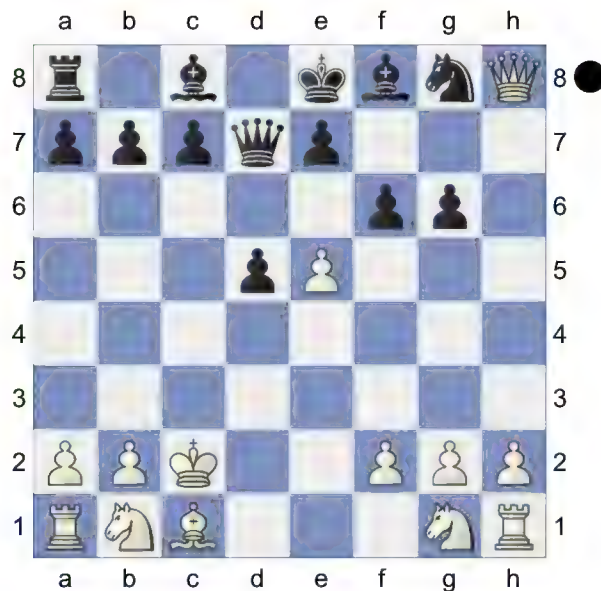
[After 7...Qd7? 0.01/19 7...Nxc2+ -2. 14 there is 8.Na3 Qg4 9.Be3 -0.66/19 (9.exf6= -0.23/19 Qxg2 10.fxe7 Nxe7 11.Bh6 Qe4+ 12.Kd2) 9...Qxg2 0.01/21 (9...Be6? -0.66/19

10.Kf1 Nf5) 10.0-0-0!= Be6 aiming for ...0-0-0. 11.exf6! exf6 12.Bxd4 Qxh1]

[A more practical approach is 7...Kf7 , for example 8.Na3 Bg7 9.Qh4 fxe5 10.Be3 Nh6 11.0-0-0 (11.Bxh6 -0.89/20 11.Bxd4 -0.43 Nf5) 11...c6 0.01/20 (11...Ndf5! -0.61/18 12.Qb4 c6) 12.Nh3 -0.69/21 (12.Bxd4!= 0.01/20 Nf5 Deflection, Double Attack 13.Qh7 Nxd4 14.Nh3) 12...Kg8 when Black's king finds safety and he has good compensation for the exchange.]

8.Kd1 Black is clearly better. 8...Qd7!
 [8...Nxa1 9.Qxg8 Qd7 (9...fxe5? 10.Qxg6+ Kd7 11.Nf3+-; 9...Bf5? 10.e6+-) 10.Qxg6+ Kd8 11.Qf7 Qa4+ 12.b3 Qxa2 13.Qxf8+=]

9.Qxg8
 [9.Kxc2



Hoping for Kd1. Qg4!]

(Diagram)

9...Qg4+ 10.Kxc2? -3.29/22
 [10.Ne2 Be6 11.Qh7 (11.f3 Qf5



12.Qxe6 Qxe6 13.Kxc2 Qxe5 gives Black a queen and two pawns for the three minor pieces, which also don't have good squares.) 11...Nxa1 12.exf6 -2.59/20 (12.f3 -1.97/20 Qxg2 13.Rg1 Qxf3 14.Nd2) 12...exf6+ 13.Qxc7 Qa4+ 14.b3? -4.67/22 (14.Ke1 -2.46/20 Rc8 15.Qf4 Nc2+ 16.Kf1 Ne3+ 17.fxe3 Qd1+ Skewer, Double Attack 18.Kf2 Qxh1 19.Qxf6) 14...Qxa2+ 15.Nd2 Rc8 16.Qxb7 Bh6] [10.Ne2 -1.68/21 Be6 11.f3] 10...Bf5+-+ 11.Kd2 [11.Kc3? -8.75/18 11.Kd2 -2.96 Qc4+ 12.Kd2 Ne2 is the strong threat. Qc2+ 13.Ke1 Qxc1+ 14.Ke2 Qxb2+ 15.Nd2 Qxe5+ and then finally take the rook on a1.] 11...0-0-0 Threatening ...Bh6+. [11...Qxg2 12.Ne2 0-0-0 (12...Qxh1? 13.Ng3+-) 13.Qh8+- (13.Rg1? Qxf2 14.Kd1 d4+-)] 12.Qh7 Wards off Bh6+ 12...Qg5+ 13.Kd1 Qxg2 14.Nd2? -5.06/21 [14.Qh4 -2.70/19 is a better defense.] 14...Qxh1 Black is clearly winning.

15.Ndf3 fxe5 White is weak on the light squares 16.Bh6 Bxh6 17.Qxh6 e4 attacks the knight that defends its colleague on g1. Black is winning.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/ Black=0.05 (flawless) 0-1 (17) Nimzowitsch Defence-3.e5 f6 4. Others [GM Nigel Davies]

c) 4.c4 Nigel Davies 4...dxc4 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.exf6 exf6 7.d5 Qe7+! 8.Be2 [8.Be3 Ne5]

8...Bxf3 9.gxf3 0-0-0 would give Black has a clear plus.

The immediate 4.exf6 Nxf6 directly defuses the situation in the centre, but brings Black one step closer to equality: 5.--

[5.Nf3 allows the annoying pin Bg4 . Now the only way for White to successfully prevent Black from playing ...e7-e5 is by 6.Bb5 (if 6.Be2 Bxf3 7.Bxf3 e5 8.dxe5 Nxe5 and Black has comfortably equalized) , after which T.Walseth-M.Ardaman, Internet (blitz) 1999, continued 6...Qd7 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 a6 9.Bxc6 Qxc6 10.Nc3 e6 11.Bg5 Bb4! 12.Bxf6 0-0 13.0-0 Rxf6 14.Qe3 Raf8 and Black was clearly better due to his more active pieces.]

[5.Bf4 is the only challenging move. -- (Now Black should not play 5...Bg4 , since after 6.Be2 Bxe2 7.Nxe2 e6 8.Nbc3 Bd6 9.Nb5 Bxf4 10.Nxf4 he cannot play e5 because of 11.Ne6 .; Better is 5...Bf5 , when T.Thompson-E.Cruz, World Junior Championships 1993, continued 6.c3 a6! 7.Nf3 e6 8.Nbd2 Bd6 9.Ne5 Bxe5! 10.Bxe5 0-0 11.h3 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Ne4 13.Nxe4 Bxe4 and Black had a very nice position.)]

¹¹³ **4...fxe5** 5.dxe5 e6 Black has gained some stability over his center, but now the diagonal h3-c8 is 'closed' for his Bishop. 6.Nf3 Nge7 7.c3 Taking the b4- and d4-squares away from Black's pieces. Taking the b4- and d4-squares away from Black's pieces. After

7...Ng6

[7...Bd7 8.Bd3 Black is hard pressed on the Kingside. After g6 9.h4 Bg7 10.Qe2 followed by h4-h5, Black's Kingside is vulnerable to attack. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... d5 3. e5 f6 #2]

8.Qe2 White's development is harmonious and easy to implement. The pawn on e5 is very annoying and it disrupts Black's ability to develop his pieces freely. 8...Bc5

[8...Bd7 9.Bd3 Nh4 10.Nxh4 It might be stronger for White to play here 10.Ng5 !? Nxg2+ 11.Kd1 with a strong attack following Qh5+. This is a good option, but it requires White to play very concretely. Qxh4 11.b4 Taking away the c5-square from Black's Bishop while also gaining space on the Queenside and the possibility to kick Black's Knight away from c6 later. Be7 12.h3 Threatening to trap the black Queen by g2-g3. g5 13.Nd2 a6 14.a4 Qh6 15.0-0 Qg7 16.Re1 White has some edge in the position. Later on, he can aim to gain more space on the Queenside by playing Nb3 followed by b4-b5. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... d5 3. e5 f6 #7]

[8...Be7 aims to finish his development, but the dubious placement of his pieces can be exploited by 9.h4 0-0 10.Bd3

10.h5 Nf4 11.Bxf4 Rxf4 12.Nbd2 is another good and solid way to get a stable advantage. Rxf3 This is Black's best chance. He has to try to free up his position and exchanges could help him. 11.Bxg6 There is no reason to accept the exchange sacrifice and complicate matters. Rxf2 (11...Rf8 12.Bd3 Bc5 13.f4 Bd7 14.h5 Be8 15.Qg4 Qe7 16.Nd2 Rd8 17.Rh3 White has strong pressure. Later he can bring his Knight to f3 and g5, further provoking weaknesses on Black's King position. Meanwhile, he can also move his Rook to g3 to attack g7. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... d5 3. e5 f6 #6) 12.Bxh7+ Kxh7 13.Kxf2 Qf8+ 14.Ke1 Qf5 15.Bg5 does not give Black sufficient compensation for the exchange. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... d5 3. e5 f6 #4]

9.b4 Gaining a tempo by attacking the black Bishop and forcing it to decide whether it wants to remain on the g1-a7 diagonal, or drop back to e7. 9...Bb6

[9...Be7 10.h4 0-0 11.Bd3 leaves Black's Kingside vulnerable as well. For example: a6 12.a3 Bd7 13.h5 Nf4 14.Bxf4 Rxf4 15.Nbd2 White has the possibility to attack the vital h7-pawn later with Bc2 and Qd3. Meanwhile the pawn on e5 is well protected and the Bishop on d7 remains passive for the time being. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... d5 3. e5 f6 #8]

10.Bd3 Nh4 11.a4 a6 12.Nxh4 Qxh4 13.Nd2 0-0 14.g3 Qh3 may look annoying, but 15.f4 Black can also go for 15...Bd7 but then after 16.Nf3 h6 17.Be3 Bxe3 18.Qxe3

White has stable control over the dark-squares. We reach a similar position: Black can hardly avoid the 'good Knight versus bad Bishop' position type because we answer ... Ne7-f5 with Bxf5. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... d5 3. e5 f6 #10

4...Bf5 5.Nf3 Qd7 6.c4 Bxb1! With this exchange, which is anything but obvious, Black plans to win the square d4 for his Knight. 01: Active Bishop: '!! A brilliant conception which enables him to fight successfully for control of the vital d5 square.' 7.Rxb1 0-0-0

8.cxd5 01: Active Bishop: 'On 8 c5 Nimzowitsch planned ...g5 followed by ...Bg7.'

[8.c5 If this is White's choice, Black counters with... g5 A fight would then take place for possession of the point e5, as follows... 9.Qe2 Threatening e6, shutting Black in. Qe6 10.a3 Nh6 ...followed by either ...Nf7 or else ... Nb8. In either case Black would not stand badly.]

8...Qxd5 9.Bxc6 Qxc6 10.0-0 e6 11.Be3 Ne7 12.Qe2 Nd5 We may with a clear conscience regard White's d-pawn as isolated. His weakness (for the endgame!) is evidenced. Black has in the square d5 a very strong point. As regards any compensating advantage for what we have called his isolated d-pawn, White has the outpost station c5 which will serve some purpose. On the other hand e5 is of no use to him as a station for his Knight. The game is about equal. 13.Rfc1 A rather curious overprotection is now built up in moves 13-18 and has been previously discussed on page 156.

[13.exf6 Nimzo suggests that this might be better than 13.Rfc1, as played in this game. True his opponent would have had the g-file and a centrally posted Bishop at d6, but the e-file must not be despised, at any rate as a counterweight.]

13...Qd7 14.Rc4 Kb8 15.Qd2 Rc8 16.Ne1 Be7 17.Nd3 Rhd8 18.Qc2 f5 Having consolidated his position, Black passes to the attack, which is not easy to conduct, since for one thing objectives are lacking and for another White has attacking chances of his own. 19.Rc1

[♠19.b4 Much better than the text, with the idea of 20.Nc5 Bxc5 21.bxc5. The question now arises, is Black's position strong enough to bear weakening? (Nimzo, in a spot that in this medium seems out of place in its original context, basically says that Black's overprotected central position is so strong that he can leave himself unprotected and still repel anything White may throw at him) Two moves in particular come under consideration in reply to 19.b4, namely 19...b6, and 19...b5. b6 (19...b5 Black is still ok in this line... 20.Rc6 Kb7 21.Nc5+ Bxc5 22.Rxc5 Nb6 Black is strong on the light squares...) 20.Nc5

A) 20...bxc5? A mistake that allows a stunning combination... 21.bxc5+ Ka8? (21...Nb6 A counter-sacrifice that allows Black to survive.) 22.c6 Qe8 23.Ra4 Threatening 24. Rxa7+. Nb6 24.d5!! Rxd5 25.Rxa7+ Kxa7 26.Qa4+ Kb8 27.Bxb6 cxb6 28.Rxb6+ Kc7 29.Rb7+ Kd8 30.c7+! Rxc7 31.Rb8+ Rc8 32.Rxc8+ Kxc8 33.Qxe8+ Yow!!;

B) 20...Bxc5 Black has little to worry about in this line... 21.bxc5 c6 Black stands well.]

19...g5 01: Active Bishop: 'With the centre secure Nimzowitsch undertakes a powerful wing diversion.' 20.Nc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5 Rg8 22.Qe2 h5! 23.Bd2 01: Active Bishop: 'Not 23 Qxh5 g4.'

[23.Qxh5? g4 ...followed by ...Rh8.]

23...h4 24.a4 g4 25.a5 a6! 26.b4 c6 White has spent his last fury. 27.Rb1 Qf7 28.Rb3 f4 29.Qe4 f3! 30.Rc1

[30.gxf3 White would hold out no longer in this line. gxf3+ 31.Kf1 Rcf8 (31...Rg1+)]

30...fxg2 31.Kxg2 Rcf8 Notice with what surprising ease the Black Rooks are brought into action, a further proof of the enormous vitality of overprotecting pieces. 32.Rf1 g3! 01: Active Bishop: '!' 33.hxg3 hxg3 34.f4 01: Active Bishop: 'Of course, 34 Rxg3 Rxg3+ 35 Kxg3 would be horrible for White.'

[34.Rxg3 This exposes the White monarch... Rxg3+]

34...Ne7 35.Be1 Nf5 36.Rh1 Rg4 37.Bxg3 Qg6 38.Qe1 Nxg3 Decisive, though so simple and even insipid. It wins the pawns which are so conveniently exposed on the 4th rank. 39.Rxg3 Rxf4 40.Rhh3 Rxd4 41.Qf2 Rxg3+ 42.Rxg3 Qe4+ 43.Kh2 Qxe5 44.Kg2 Qd5+

Nimzo calls this one of his favorite games. 0-1 (44) Three Swedish Amateurs-Nimzowitsch, A My System (Game 1921 01: Active Bishop: 'White resigns. Compare the finish of the game with that of Diez del Corral-Petrosian.'

¹¹⁴ **5.Nc3 e6**

[5...fxe5 6.dxe5 (6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Qh5+ g6 8.Qxe5 Nf6 9.Nf3

In return for the Bishop pair White has managed to seize control over e5 and some dark-squares and this more than compensates for the two Bishops. 9.Bf4 deserves attention as well. Bg7 10.O-O Qd6 11.Re1 Black has problems developing due to his backward e7 pawn. Meanwhile his Bishop on c6 for the moment remains quite passive and the e5-square is firmly in White's control. 35. Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... d5 3. e5 f6 #12) 6...d4 7.Nce2 a6 8.Ba4 Nxe5 9.Qxd4 Bxa4 10.Qxa4+ Qd7 11.Qxd7+ Nxd7 would be a better endgame for White because of Black's three pawn islands.]

6.Nf3 was already covered in the section on 3.Nc3 e6 4.e5. 6.O-O ?! would allow the resource Nxe5 ! when things are suddenly not clear: 7. Nxe5 fxe5 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Qxe5 Bxb5 10.Qxh8 Bxf1 11.Qxg8 Qe7 ! 12.Kxf1 O-O-O it would take some effort for White to rescue his Queen. Allowing the trick ...Nxe5 is definitely not necessary. 6...a6

7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.O-O Ne7 9.Re1 White has some edge here, and pressure on the e6-pawn. Closing the center would not help Black:

9...f5 10.h4 Qd7 11.Ne2 O-O-O 12.Nf4 the Knight is very well placed on f4 and it is not easy for Black to create counterplay on the Kingside, as g5 is well protected. Meanwhile White can play b3 and a4 next, opening up the Queenside and getting the possibility of exchanging dark-squared Bishops with Ba3. 35.

Nimzowitsch Defence (1...-2... e6

5.Nf3 Nxe5 6.dxe5

[6.Nxe5 fxe5 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Qxe5 Nf6 10.0-0 Bg7 11.c3 (11.Bf4!?) 11...0-0 12.Bf4 Ne4! 13.Qxc7 Qf5 14.Be3 Rac8 15.Qxb7 Rb8 16.Qxe7 Rbe8 (16...Rxb2) 17.Qh4! g5 18.Qh5! Nxf2?

A) 19.Rxf2 Qd3 20.Rxf8+ Rxf8 21.Bf2 Qc2 22.Nd2 Qxd2 23.Rf1;

B) 19.Bxf2? Qxf2+-+ (19...Re1);

C) 19.Qe2? Rxe3! 20.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 21.Rxf2 Re1+ 22.Rf1 Rxf1# 0-1 (22) Marangoni,G-Casalini,L Vicenza 1859 Rivista Delg. Scacchi [Casalini, L.]]

6...Bxb5 7.Nc3 Qd7 8.Qxd5 Qxd5 9.Nxd5 0-0-0 10.Nf4 Bd7 11.e6 Bc6 12.h4 Bxf3 13.gxf3 g6

5.f4 Nxe5

5.Bxc6

¹¹⁵ **5...Nxe5** is then a big mistake because of 6.Bxd7+ Nxd7 7.Nf4 threatening both Ne6 and Qh5+.

¹¹⁶ **6...a6** 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Nf4 Qd7 9.Qg4

[9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Nxe6 Qxe6 11.Re1 Ne4]

9...f5 10.Qg3 0-0-0 also seems fine, though the engine may prefer White until Black successfully organizes ... g7-g5.

6...Nxe5 7.Bxd7+ Nxd7 8.Nf4

¹¹⁷ **8.Nbc3** Qf7 is an arrangement of Black's pieces that we have seen before.

¹¹⁸ After **4...Bf5** Nigel Davies 5.Nf3 , he would be ready to recapture with the knight.

¹¹⁹ **6.Nf3** e6 7.Bb5 Bc5 was Lindberg, B (2515)-Laveryd,P (2459) SWE-chT 0304 Sweden 2003 .

¹²⁰ **6...Qd7** also seems playable, for example 7.Nf3 Nb4 8.0-0 And now e6! would win. 8...Nxd3 9.cxd3 Threatening e6! 9...e6 was nice for Black in Seifert,C (2176)-Lutz,K (2282) Oberliga Ost-B 1011 Germany 2010.

¹²¹ **8.Nf3** Nge7

[8...Bc5! followed by ... Nge7 looks more economical here.]

9.Nbd2 Ng6 10.Bg3 Bc5 and Black stood well in Kerkhof,M-Poetsch,H (2462) Vlissingen HZ op 16th 2012. A rather calm draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.03 (flawless) Line Nimzowitsch Defence-3.e5 f6 4.Bf4/ 2024